FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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Volume 23, No. 4, 1977

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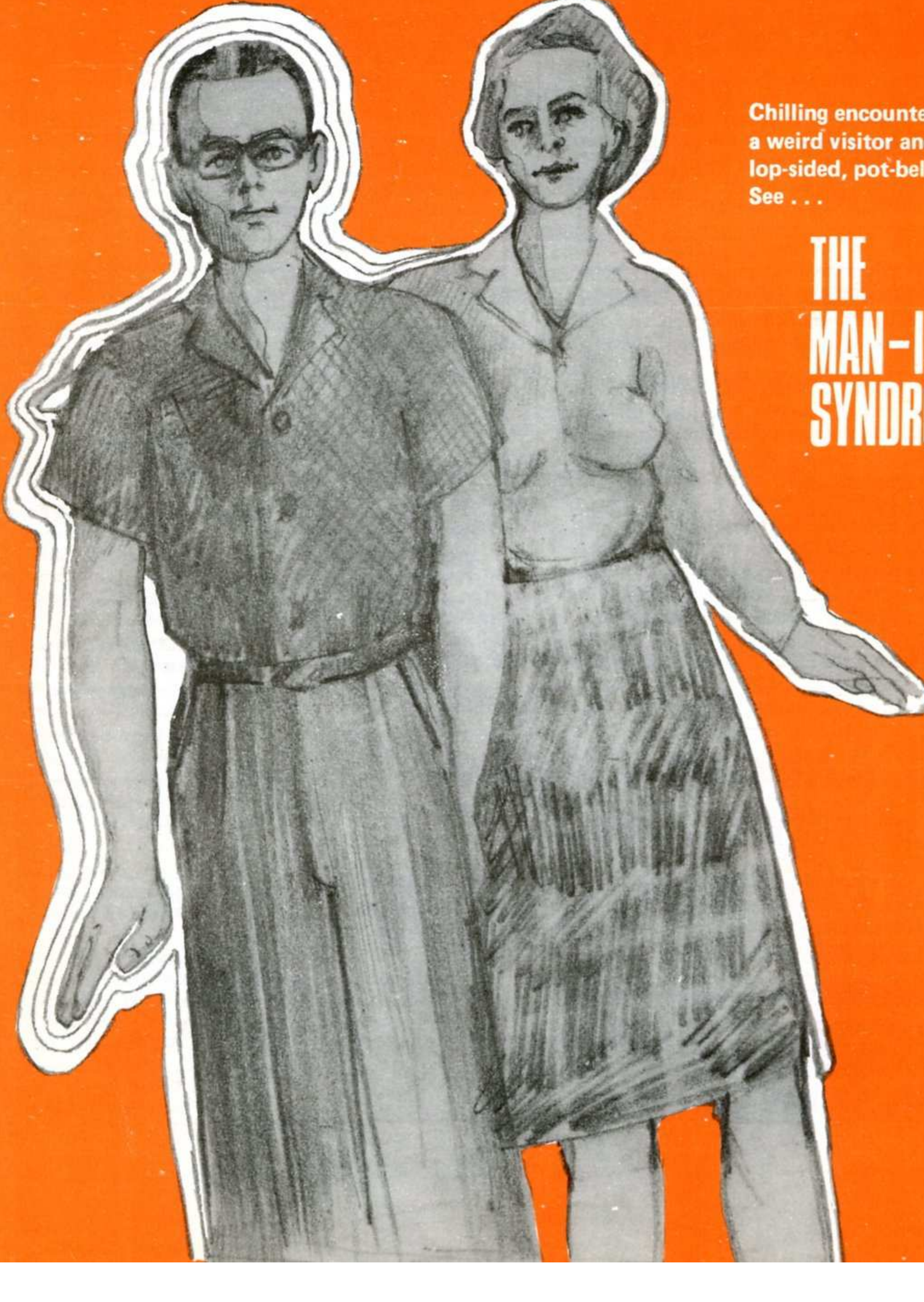

Chilling encounter with a weird visitor and his lop-sided, pot-bellied companion. See . . .

THE MAN-IN-BLACK SYNDROME

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

fsr

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SPIELBERG'S UFOs ARRIVE

WITH only a handful of film reviews in America and British magazines and newspapers to lean on, we nevertheless venture to welcome film-director Steven Spielberg's UFOs which, at long last, have arrived on the American filmgoer's scene. In other words, at the time of writing, **Close Encounters of the Third Kind** has hit the silver screens. A science-fiction film certainly, but one with a difference, for its director is the young genius who presented *Jaws* to the world, and surely everyone knows what that did to the box-office records.

We read that Columbia Pictures and EMI, with the help of a few others, have financed the new epic to the tune of $18 million, and with so much at stake, their hot property was the subject of a vast security operation. Everything was kept under tightly-laced wraps until the launching pad was ready.

It so happened that *Flying Saucer Review* played a small part in the public relations campaign. Your editor was aware of a faint whisper about some movie being made while visiting the United States in April/ May 1976, but paid little attention to it; he had no idea it was a brain-child of Mr. Spielberg. Then in June of that year he was invited to visit the Columbia Pictures office in London where he was told officially about the film and its name, learned that shooting was completed and that editing was in progress. Not a word of the plot was disclosed, but your editor was asked to take part in the opening publicity sallies by preparing a piece about the film which would precede the onset of the major publicity. For this purpose an editorial leader was chosen as the vehicle (see FSR Vol.22, No.3).

With all this expenditure at stake, and with all the security, small wonder people in the trade became at bit edgy. We gather that when a showing of the film was tried out in Dallas, Texas, a couple of uninvited reporters found a way in; one of them produced a "knocking" sneak preview and Columbia stock took a tumble on Wall Street. Fortunately for the movie-makers' ulcers, however, *Time* came up with a very favourable review and all was well again.

Steven Speilberg describes his story as an "adventure thriller" in the Hitchcock mould rather than science fiction and with all the available literature and J. Allen Hynek to consult, no wonder it is said he has extrapolated with care the most respectable UFO data. Yet we are told the movie's power derives from "... the human reality that underlies the whole saucer phenomenon." (*Newsweek* – Jack Kroll – November 21, 1977.) The same reviewer declares that *Close Encounters* "... is the friendliest, warmest S.F. epic you've ever seen. It brings the heavens down to earth."

Basically – very basically – the story revolves around Roy Neary, a power-company worker who, while investigating a power failure, is subjected to all manner of "psychic" and electromagnetic effects when driving his truck. Roy believes that he has had an encounter with alien entities but, when he wants to describe his experience, no one believes

him. Roy however is not alone: his strange experience is shared elsewhere by little Cary Gulley, who awakes delighted to witness strange poltergeistic effects among his toys and other household chattels, and by his mother Jillian, who is scared stiff. Elsewhere there is a group of scientists led by an "official" French scientific investigator, Lacombe, who has been following a trail of sighting reports.

All these people become involved in a search for a rendevouz with the aliens, many of them missing clues which stare them in the face — the innocents among them, however, grasping these clues with both hands. Eventually they all converge on the Devils Tower mountain in Wyoming for the final encounter which occupies the last 40 minutes of the film.

The film, it seems, contains many surprises: not the least for ufologists, who catch a glimpse of Dr. J. Allen Hynek (according to *Newsweek*, the "Galileo of Ufology") becoming what can only be described as a "contactee."

We are told there are fine performances by Richard Dreyfuss (Roy), Melinda Dillon (Jillian) and Franois Truffant (Lancombe) who bring warmth to otherwise sketchily drawn characters. As says *Time* (November 7, 1977): "The actors' eyes are lit by a touch of madness... to suggest the courage that drives them to abandon friends and family to pursue their mission."

Close Encounters of the Third Kind is an awesome experience for most who see it and, as *Time* observes, Spielberg has the audience "... sitting with him in the lap of the universe, ready and waiting for new magic to fall into their lives."

* * * * *

It would seem clear from the above that Steven Spielberg's UFO movie is assured a large audience; the response at the New York and Los Angeles premieres has been quite phenomenal, with huge queues forming. The movie's impact is sure to be immense, and a vast "plug" for the subject.

But what will all this do to the serious study of the phenomena?

There are bound to be those who will say that Spielberg's UFOs and their apparently amiable occupants will lead to a great increase in reporting of the phenomenon, and that these reports will include an increased percentage of hoaxes and misidentifications. While this must be expected, we feel that there will be an upsurge in genuine reporting because people who have had very real encounters may now feel they can talk about those experiences. In other words a new climate for the subject could well be a result of the film's impact. It will be up to UFO investigators and researchers to sift the wheat from the chaff.

There will certainly be witnesses of real UFO activity, and those who have undergone a real close encounter of the third kind who may not be able to reconcile their more alarming type of experience with the friendly type displayed in *Close Encounters*. For these we have produced an anthology of selected works from our journal, and this will appear in the United States when the big movie goes on general release. The book is entitled *Encounter Cases from Flying Saucer Review* and it will be published by New American Library, presumably under their Signet label. Hopefully, by the time these lines appear in print, the first printing of the book will be sold out over there!

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (Vol. 23, No. 5)...

Encounter at Talavera — *Juan J. Benitez*

Attempted abduction at Vila Velha — *Dr. W. Buhler*

Marple Ridge 'Diamonds' — *Graham Conway*

Light phenomenon at Barnard Castle — *Brian Straight*

The Man-in-Black syndrome–2 — *Dr. B.E. Schwarz*

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UFOs AND SOLID LIGHT PHENOMENA IN DORSET

Leslie Harris

This case was investigated by the author and John Ledner of Bournemouth Unexplained Phenomena Research Group and the journal *Scan.* Report prepared by Mr. Harris for UFOIN and *Flying Saucer Review.*

A NUMBER of witnesses observed an unidentified aerial phenomenon on Saturday May 21, 1977, during the 30 minute period between 10.45 and 11.15pm. Five of these witnesses reported observing a beam of light emitted by a stationary object, and three of these five reported an extending beam, or what is usually termed "solid light" in UFO literature.

The activity seems to have been centred around the Canford Heath area of Poole, Dorset, which is a fairly recent housing development built upon heathland rich in tumuli and power lines. Being somewhat above sea-level, the area commands extensive views of Poole Harbour and the surrounding countryside.

Witness No. 1: Richard Morse is a 26-year-old beach attendant of Esmonde Way, Canford Heath. He was returning home on the night in question at about 10.55, which is early for him, but he intended to have an early night as he was working the following day.

Whilst taking a short cut through woodland near his home, he noticed "dancing discs" in the sky, beaming light upward (see Fig.1). After watching this display for a few seconds, an object suddenly appeared behind cloud at about 45 degrees elevation to the left of, and a little higher than, the previous phenomenon. This object was a silvery-grey, later to become "orangey" in colour. Its size was slightly larger than the full moon, and it was "disc-shaped" with two antenna-like protrusions on the top (see Fig. 2). It is thought that these protrusions could have been short beams of light, as they vanished when, from the centre underside of the object, a whitish beam of light appeared, and extended swiftly to the ground, the end of the beam being plainly visible during its transit.

The witness watched this spectacle with mounting fear. It was a windy night, but during the 45 seconds (approximately) of the observation, the wind seemed to drop and the witness felt himself in "a vacuum" with "no air around." Being behind cloud, the object was not perfectly defined, but clear enough for its general shape to be observed. The beam, however, *was* clearly defined.

After a few seconds the beam "switched off" (it did *not* retract, but disappeared instantly like a normal light) and the object performed a "banking" manoeuvre, then sped away to the west and was out of sight almost at once. No sound was heard at any time.

The witness returned home in a state of considerable fear and shock. His disturbed condition was verified by his family who all agreed that he was shaking and sweating when he arrived home.

Richard appears to be an intelligent, well-adjusted young man and he co-operated willingly with us. We were impressed by the fact that he volunteered the description of the extending light beam, as he is unlikely to have knowledge of such phenomena without closely studying UFO literature, which does not appear to be the case. He did, however, allude to a general interest in the subject, and mentioned a previous sighting in 1968 of a "Jupiter-like" object which sped away at high speed.

Witnesses Nos. 2. & 3: A courting couple parked in a lonely lane also experienced weird phenomena on the

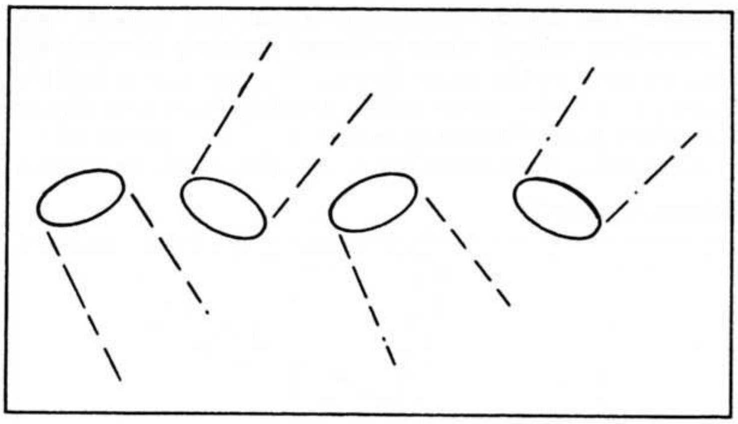
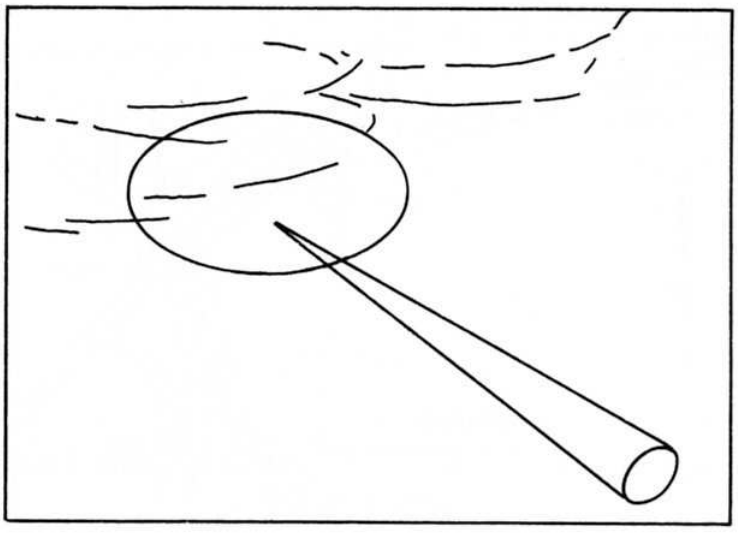


Figure 1 (above) **Figure 2 (below)**



night of May 21st. Clifford Rowe, an 18-year-old - electrician, son of the Bournemouth mace-bearer, of Belmont Avenue, Bournemouth, and his attractive girlfriend, 17-year-old Karen Iveson of Guernsey Road, Parkstone, were sitting in Clifford's car at about 11.00 pm. Their location was just off a lane, beside a stream and a hump-backed bridge, not far from Hurn Airport. It should be noted that the airport closes at 9.30pm and a mistaken identification of an aircraft can definitely be ruled out.

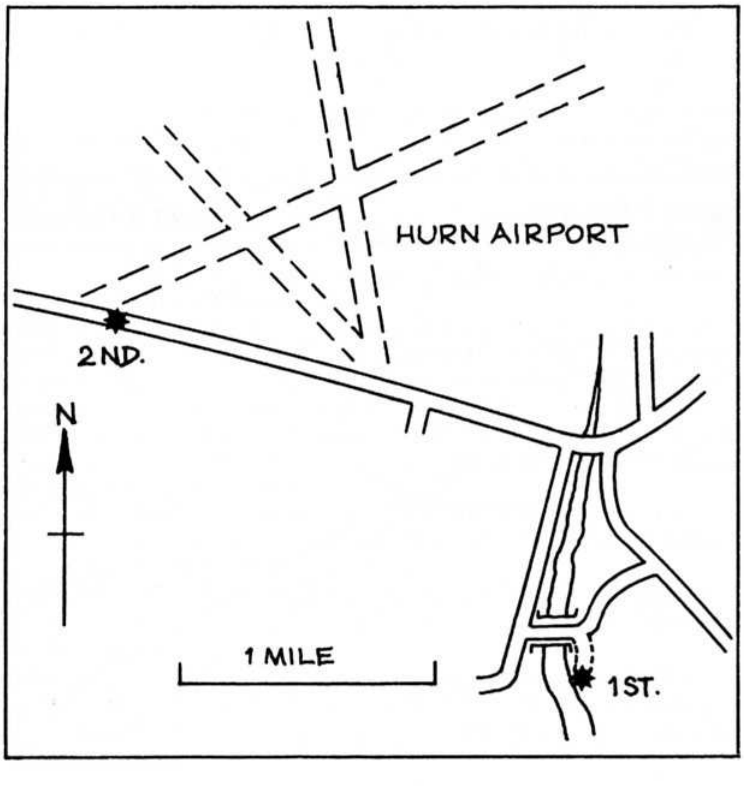
Clifford saw the object first and drew Karen's attention to it. It appeared to be some distance away, and was a very pale green cigar-shaped object, somewhat larger than the sun. The couple watched it travel at speed from east to west, passing behind a tree and emerging on the other side. Suddenly it executed a right-angled turn *downwards* and "dropped like a stone" out of sight.

The couple now became rather nervous, and Clifford started the car and drove off. They drove back to the main road which borders Hurn Airport (see Fig. 3), and when they were approaching the last set of traffic lights, almost at the end of the airport, Karen spotted the object again. This time it overtook them from behind and slightly to their right. It stopped some distance ahead of them, then Karen saw a beam of light extend swiftly from the centre of the object towards the ground (see Fig. 4). This beam was of a slightly darker green than the main object, and Karen described it as "patchy."

Clifford, who was concentrating on his driving, saw this phenomenon only briefly and did not observe the beam extending from the object. His description varied slightly from Karen's in that he saw, as well as the main beam, "...two much lighter beams about the same width coming from the object at a slight angle" (see Fig. 5).

Clifford's eyes were back on the road, so Karen

Below: Figure 3



takes up the story again. After a few seconds the beam switched off (did not retract) and the object sped away to the south (in the direction of Canford Heath) and was quickly lost to sight.

After hearing both witnesses' account of their experience, we questioned them more closely on their first sighting, and why they had felt so nervous, to the point of leaving for home, when the UFO had been observed for such a short period and had been such a considerable distance away. This line of enquiry brought out information which may or may not have relevance to the UFO sighting, and which the witnesses had previously felt too unimportant to mention.

Some minutes prior to the sighting, a light flashed in two separate sequences of four flashes per sequence. These flashes illuminated the interior of the car, and when we asked if they could be likened to electronic flash, Clifford agreed that this was a fair comparison At the time he had dismissed them as car headlights, but bearing in mind that their parking spot was lower than the level of the lane, and the main road was not visible from their location, this seems an unlikely explanation.

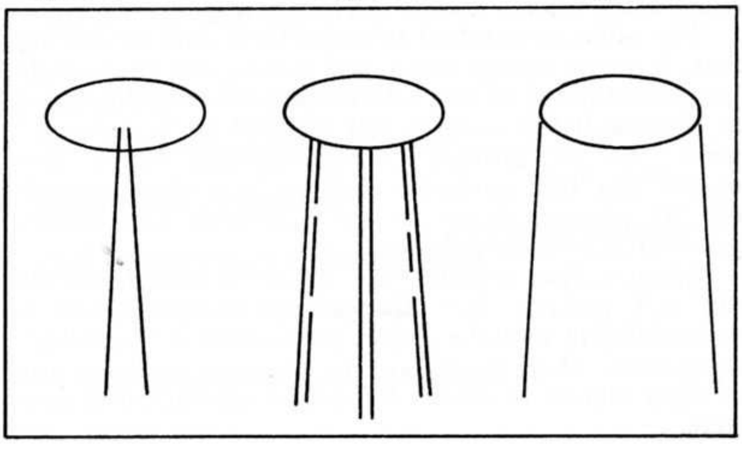
Following these flashes, and still prior to their initial sighting, the witnesses were somewhat alarmed by a "loud, prolonged bang" like someone dragging a heavy board across the road. The lane was deserted at the time, and witnesses could not account for this strange sound, so their state was already one of alarm when the UFO appeared and finally precipitated their departure.

It was established that neither witness had any previous interest or belief in UFOs. Both appeared stable, and thoroughly believable in their testimony.

Witnesses Nos. 4 & 5: Mrs Pauline Fall, a 30-year-old housewife of Heron Drive, Colehill, Wimborne, and Mrs Joan Burden of Swallow Way, Wimborne, had been into Bournemouth to see a show and were returning home in a cheerful frame of mind at about 11.10pm on May 21st, discussing the show and chatting generally. They were in Mrs Fall's car with Mrs Fall driving.

As they proceeded along Millhams Lane, Kinson, in roughly a northerly direction, a beam of intense silvery-white light struck the bonnet of the car. Mrs Burden saw this light a moment or two before Mrs

Below:
Figure 4 **Figure 5** **Figure 6**



Fall and witnesses' testimony at this point is of very high strangeness, indeed quite difficult to comprehend, Our close questioning regarding the following events in no way lessened their conviction of the reality of them, although they conceded that their story sounds incredible.

The beam of light that struck Mrs Fall's car emanated from a brilliant hemi-spherical source visible to her through the bottom left-hand corner of her windscreen. This silvery-orange light source, she is convinced, was some considerable distance away in spite of the fact that, at the section of road where this incident occurred, **the view to the left is completely blocked** by the remains of a council rubbish tip, which is now filled in and consists of large, grass-covered mounds.

Mrs Burden, who was interviewed separately, gave an almost identical account. She spoke of the unique nature of the beam, which appeared to be about 2 feet in width with very clear cut edges. It seemed to "cut through" the terrain, obliterating everything in its path yet illuminating nothing. The **end of the beam** was clearly visible and this was circular.

So we have a situation where two witnesses observe a beam of light directed towards their car from a brilliant source at ground level some distance away (in the exact direction of Canford Heath, incidentally) and which appears to be **penetrating solid matter** in the shape of the grassy mounds of the old rubbish tip.

This beam of light was not stationary, however. It swung back and forth (through 90 degrees according to Mrs Fall, 180 degrees according to Mrs Burden) striking the bonnet of Mrs Fall's car each time. As the car was moving at about 20 - 25 mph, this would suggest that the beam was **following** the movement of the vehicle. This was repeated several times, and appeared to change the colour of the paintwork from blue to its own silvery-white at each contact. There were no physical effects on Mrs Fall or her companion during this episode. Mrs Fall, however, was scared, and rejected her friend's suggestion that they should stop. When they reached the end of Millhams Lane, at the point where it joins the A.348, Mrs Burden looked to the left but the light had now disappeared and there was nothing to be seen.

Somewhat shaken by the experience, Mrs. Fall drove on, intent on getting home without delay. She passed through Longham, then turned left on to the B.3073 (Ham Lane) towards Wimborne. Her friend was keeping watch but could see nothing.

When just past the left-hand turning to Hampreston, Mrs Fall suddenly saw a circular object hanging motionless in the sky to their left (in the direction of Canford Heath). The object was about the size of the full moon and silvery-white in colour. From the centre of it was a cone of light beaming towards the ground (see Fig. 4: configuration identical to that of the Karen Iveson sighting). There was no movement, no detail on the object and no sound. Mrs Fall began to feel very scared and went "cold inside." Her hands, from just above the wrists downwards, went icy cold, although the rest of her body remained at normal temperature.

Mrs Burden described a slightly different phenomenon. To her it was as if a "hole" had appeared in the sky from which a beam of light "fell" to the ground. She likened this to the appearance of a carpet or rope ladder rapidly extending downward. The beam was identical to that of the earlier experience and appeared to emanate from a flat disc "like the bottom of a metal cup" (see Fig. 6).

Mrs Burden did not describe Mrs Fall's circular object, nor did she think the beam was conical, but almost parallel in shape.

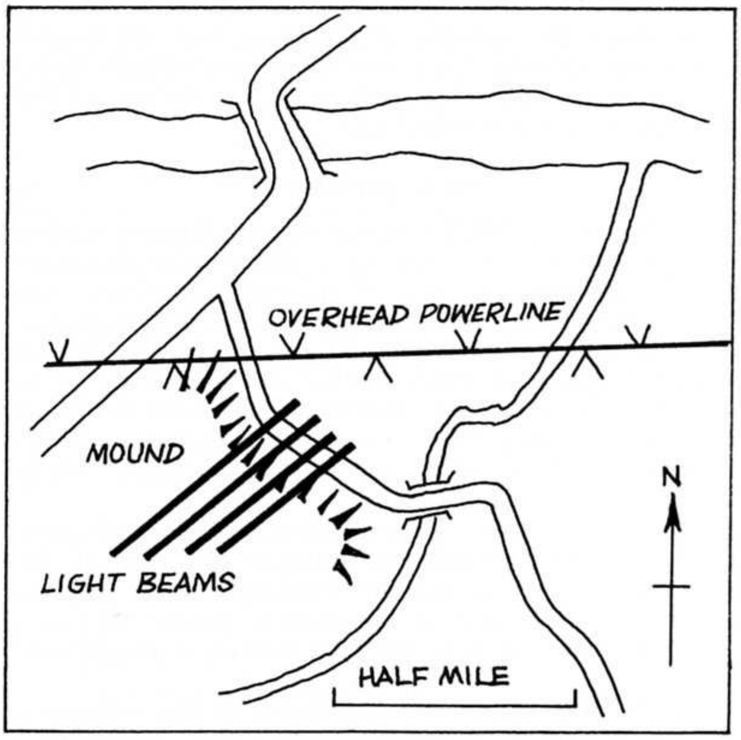
Being of an inquisitive nature, Mrs. Burden again wanted to stop, but Mrs Fall would not hear of it. After a few seconds (no more than a total of twenty) Mrs Fall described how the object suddenly "fell like a stone" to the ground and vanished. To Mrs Burden this appeared almost the same, except that she saw only the beam "falling" to the ground, *the top being clearly visible.* Mrs Fall drove home as quickly as possible.

When her husband saw her, he asked her if she had seen a ghost, for she looked pale and frightened (he confirmed this to us). Since the incident, Mrs Fall has been extremely nervous if out driving alone at night, and remembering the incident causes her hands still to shake. (Whilst talking to us she frequently apologised for this.)

Although Mrs. Fall did not observe any "extending" beams of light, Mrs Burden did, and the extraordinary nature of their first experience must, we feel, place it in the "solid-light" category. Both witnesses were co-operative and gave every impression of being truthful and reliable.

Other Sightings

The remaining witnesses did not see any beams of



Sketch map illustrating the location and action in Millhams Lane

light but their reports lend support to the testimony of the other witnesses.

Brian Haylett of Tatnum Road, Poole (about 2 miles from Canford Heath) was in his back garden at 11.05pm on May 21st, when a circular object appeared behind the clouds, about the size of the full moon but much brighter than that body. This object was circling the area in a tight (½ mile) circle at high speed (about 800 mph was Mr Haylett's estimate). Light from this object was reflecting on the cloud cover beneath it.

Mr. Haylett went indoors to fetch his son who also watched the object as it swept around a couple more times, then made off in a south-westerly direction.

Iain McNab of Tangmere Place, Gibson Road, Poole, described, in a letter to the local paper, a phenomenon identical to that reported by Mr Haylett, and at approximately the same time.

D. F. Borrett of Rowland Avenue, Poole, also reported his sighting to the local paper, but this occurred at an earlier time, and totally varied from the other reports. The following is an extract from his letter.

"Looking to the north-west at 9.00 pm we saw what appeared to be a long, narrow filament of red light with something more solid at its eastern end. It was moving slowly and steadily eastward and appeared to be rising slightly. It took half an hour to move through 30 degrees of arc, and at that time (9.30pm) it disappeared beyond the heavy bank of cloud which stretched right across the sky."

Mrs Rainback of Lake Road, Hamworthy, Poole, phoned me (L.H.) with a further report from the busy night of May 21st.

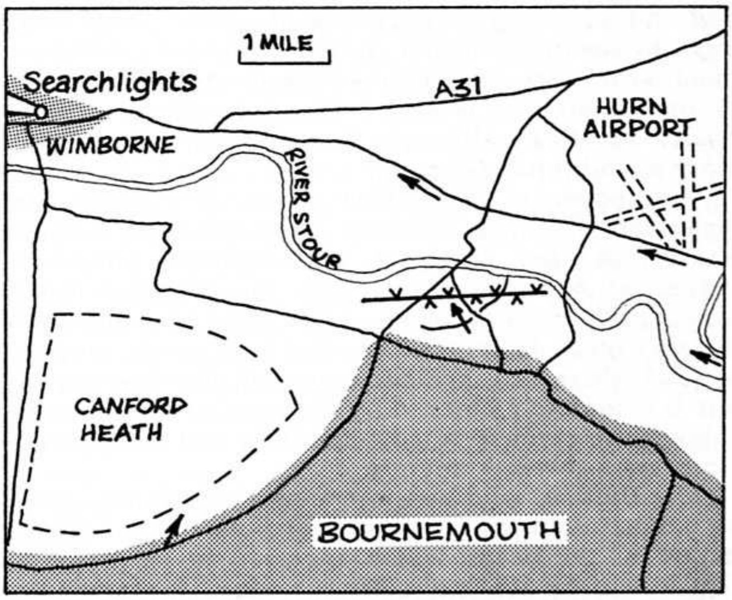
From her home, she and her family watched a formation of four whitish lights over the Purbeck Hills. Three of these lights remained quite stationary throughout the ten minute sighting, but the fourth did move slightly from the alignment. These lights were half the size of the moon, and at the end of the sighting they just blacked out.

An Explanation

Following publicity given to the beam-emitting objects, the local newspaper received an explanation of the sightings from a Wimborne gentleman, Les Scott, who was the organiser of the 22nd annual reunion of the 2nd Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. Mr Scott claimed that the two searchlights used for the reunion at Wimborne between 8.30 and 11.00pm on May 21st were responsible for all the sightings, and remarked that he "had to laugh" when he read people's reactions.

A further letter was published in the local paper from a gentleman who sweepingly disposed of the sightings by describing the wartime use of searchlights, the odd effects sometimes produced, and concluded by assuring Mrs Fall that she had no cause for concern!

After listening to the testimony of the witnesses, we had grave doubts about the searchlight explanation, but nevertheless we called on Mr Scott and laid the evidence before him. At first he maintained that searchlights can produce some very odd phenomena, but when enlightened as to the exact nature of the sightings, he conceded that "his" searchlights could not have been responsible.



The Canford Heath area and the searchlight location

We learned from Mr Scott that the searchlights which had been used in the car park outside the British Legion Hall, Wimborne, were directed NNW on to trees in the immediate vicinity. Permission could not be obtained to beam them upward as this could interfere with air traffic, and their maximum elevation was 45 degrees. Some movements of the lights were performed, but always near ground level.

In most instances the objects did not appear in the direction of Wimborne, and the searchlights were, in fact, pointing in the *opposite direction* to the sighting locations. Our visit to the car park of the British Legion Hall in Wimborne confirmed our opinion that searchlights were not responsible for the observations. The trees at which the lights had been directed were very close at hand, and the area is hemmed-in on all sides by buildings.

Last Thoughts

Without wish to draw any erroneous conclusions, some consistencies in the reports are, we feel, worth remarking upon.

(1) Three witnesses described the light beam extending or "falling" to the ground. This, together with the extraordinary incident of the beam apparently penetrating solid matter, would indicate a "solid-light" phenomenon of some importance.
(2) In two instances the beam "switched off" like a normal light. No retraction reported by any witness.
(3) The words "dropped like a stone" used in two separate incidents, that of the courting couple and Pauline Fall.
(4) In most cases directions relate to the Canford Heath area, and the witness located in this vicinity during his sighting appeared to have the object overhead.

(5) Two witnesses reported feelings of great fear, with sweating and shaking predominant.

* * * * *

The foregoing collection of data would appear to indicate that *something* extraordinary was observed by a number of independent witnesses during the evening of May 21st, 1977. The phenomenon observed by some of these witnesses can be paralleled at other times in other parts of the world, and is the phenomenon usually termed "solid light." That such phenomena should be observed at exactly the same time as a unique demonstration of searchlights is taking place not far away, must say something about the UFO "intelligence." What better time could there be to operate light beams, when the more mundane "light beams" will obviously be held responsible? A cunning ploy? Or are games being played with us yet again?

UFO AND ENTITY REPORTED FROM MORAYSHIRE

Jenny Randles

A special UFOIN report by the Network's Secretary. UFOIN address: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6NJ. Telephone: 061 775 4749

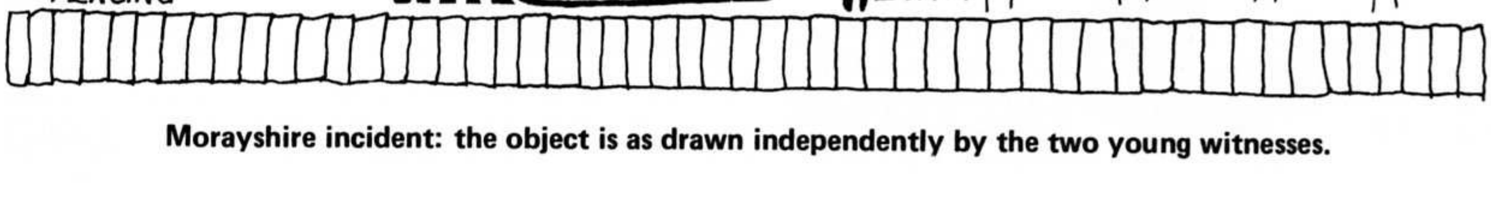
NORTHERN SCOTLAND is a remote and largely wild region. There seems little doubt that UFO activity takes place there which is never uncovered by investigators. Partly this is because the population density is low and partly it is because there are relatively few "ufologists" in these less acessible areas. For this reason UFOIN has been keeping a check on the more prominent newspapers covering the region and occasionally advertise appeals for information in these. Such an appeal was carried in the *Sunday Post* and brought an immediate response. Bryan Hartley, the investigator who placed the appeal, received a letter from a young mother, Mrs Caroline McLennan from New Elgin in Morayshire, and this in fact turned out to refer to a landing with an entity associated.

New Elgin is situated somewhat remotely in the north eastern part of the country, and on-the-spot investigation was not possible. However, interviews with the witnesses have taken place by telephone at some length, and written statements have also been obtained. The local police, and the media, have been consulted, and soil samples from the location are at present being analysed, although as these were obtained some three months after the events, it seems unlikely that anything of significance will show up.

There were problems in remembering the exact date of the events: it was almost two months after the incidents when Mrs McLennan contacted Bryan. However, with the aid of the police this has been narrowed down to May 18, 1977 - a date which is of some interest because it places it central to a considerable flap which occurred throughout Britain during that month (and particularly during the month's second and third weeks). Since there was relatively little publicity for these events the temporal concentration on such a wide scale is of great importance.

At 6.30pm on May 18 two young girls, Karen McLennan and Fiona Morrison(both aged 10) were playing in some fields near their home. The area consists of a new housing estate with adjacent woods surrounded by fencing. The first thing that attracted their attention to anything unusual was a strange humming noise. This sound they describe as something like a helicopter when it hovers, but more of a hum, and softer. When they heard the noise they were round a corner from the woods, but the noise appeared to come from there, so they moved towards this spot to see what was causing it. It was at this point that they saw the object.

The object was made up of a long cylindrical shape with rounded ends and a small dome on top. The size was difficult to judge but they feel it was of the order of 30 feet in length. The colour was basically



Morayshire incident: the object is as drawn independently by the two young witnesses.

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that of polished metal, and there were no visible markings, and no doors or windows. However, on top was a red light which was steady and did not flash. In the middle of the bottom section was a red band about one quarter the width of this portion of the object, and it seemed to be rotating.

The girls were approximately 400 yards from the object, and consequently the accuracy of any estimates of sizes cannot be guaranteed. However, both girls are very certain of what they saw, and can give vivid descriptions. The object was apparantly hovering just off the ground at about the height of the fencing which surrounded the woods. This is about two feet. In fact it seemed to be just above the fencing.

By the side of the object both birls insist that they saw a "man". He was hidden partially by the bushes but they were able to tell that he was tall and thin (it seems at least six feet in height) and seemed to be dressed all in silver. A vivid description from Karen was that he looked rather like a telegraph pole. (This means that the impression was that his arms were disproportionately short.)

Upon seeing this figure the girls became quite frightened. He then began to step out from the bushes and move towards them, and at this point they turned round and fled.

After a few seconds (perhaps thirty) they regained sufficient composure to look back. The "man" had disappeared, but the object was still in the same position. Almost instantly it began to take off. This departure was unusual, for it moved in three jerky steps. In other words it moved to the left a few yards, and then rose upwards a few more yards. It then moved further to the left and rose again. After going through this routine a third time the object took off vertically at a terrific speed and was rapidly lost to sight. The total duration of the sighting (i.e. from first seeing the object) was in the region of one minute.

The girls returned home and told their parents of what they had seen. It was taken seriously for the simple reason that both Mrs. McLennan and Mrs. Maureen Morrison had heard the sound and had realised that it was something peculiar. Mrs McLennan describes it as sounding something like a vacuum cleaner and Mrs Morrison said it was just a humming noise. Other residents in the estate also heard the noise but there were no other witnesses who actually saw the object as far as we can ascertain.

Mrs McLennan immediately telephoned the police at the local station who took a statement and promised to look into the matter. They were unable to find any cause.

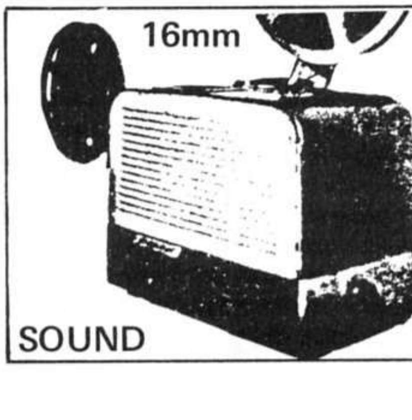
The next day Mrs McLennan and the children visited the woods and looked at the spot where the object supposedly had been. They found a circular area about 100 yards in diameter where there was minor damage to trees. Some of the young trees in this area seemed to have been singed. Of course it is possible that many other causes were responsible for this but it was felt necessary to take samples of these.

Another factor which may be relevant is that one of the neighbours of Mrs McLennan says that she heard the same noise again at exactly 6.30a.m. the next day – in other words exactly twelve hours after the sighting.

It is the opinion of the investigators that the two girls are telling the truth about what they saw. Apart from the other witnesses to the sound there are two main reasons for this conculsion.

One is that they have described features typical of close encounters. Even if one accepts that the entity description (tall figure in a silvery suit) could be culled from general publicity for the subject, it is most unlikely that they should know about a feature such as the stepped take off followed by rapid acceleration (the reverse of the 'falling leaf' motion). This is an important, albeit minor, feature of their story, which seems to gain in authenticity owing to its consistency with other similar accounts

The other reason for tending to accept their story is that it tallies remarkably well with information kindly supplied to UFOIN by Constable Grant of the local police force. He was the officer who dealt with the report, and his written testimony shows that the basic story related by girls does not contradict the one that they gave to him some months before In conclusion this sighting seems to be a typical example of a Close Encounter of the Third Kind. Despite its brief duration, and the age of the witnesses, it offers some interesting information on the nature of the UFO phenomenon.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THE MAN-IN-BLACK SYNDROME... I

FOLLOW-UP ON THE MAINE UFO ENCOUNTER

*Berthold Eric Schwarz M.D.**

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW recently published the account of a spectacular possible teleportation, involving two young men in the state of Maine.[1-3] David Stephens, one of the protagonists, has been involved in some bizarre follow-up experiences which, hopefully, will be fully reported later. This account will be confined to an unusual Man-in-Black (MIB) experience that involved Dr. Herbert Hopkins, the skilled physician who conducted the hypnotic sessions with David Stephens. Dr. Hopkins is a 58-year-old family physician who lives in a beautiful coastal resort town of Maine.

For the purpose of this report I will try to present the happenings that involved him and other members of his family, using a narrative style based not only on quotations obtained from Mrs. Shirley Fickett's original letters and tapes sent to me shortly after the MIB visitation, but also telephone calls and direct interview with Mrs. Betty Hill who was also involved in the case, numerous telephone and written communications between Dr. Hopkins and me, and taped interviews with Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins, plus a brief meeting with his two sons and daughter-in-law, at his home in Maine, from 1.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., on December 1, 1976. Relevant aspects were also confirmed on interview of Mrs. Hill in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on November 30, 1976, and an interview of Mrs. Fickett in Portland, Maine, on the morning of December 1, 1976.

I. Dr. Herbert Hopkin's experience with a Man in Black

"September 11, 1976. Time: 8.00 p.m. Saturday. This was the first time I had been alone in the house for an extended period of time. My wife and children had gone to an outdoor movie, which I dislike.

"The telephone rang and I answered it. A man's voice identified himself as the vice president of the New Jersey UFO Research Organization,[4] and he told me he would like to talk to me about the David Stephens case. He asked if I was entirely alone and if it would be convenient for me to see him. I told him to come right up and I would talk to him. I did not even ask his name, which is very uncharacteristic of me, and also I never see anyone alone since my home and office have been broken into twice and since there is a great deal of illicit drug activity in this town at the present time – even the murder of a pharmacist.

"Immediately I went to the back door to turn on the light so that he could see his way in from my parking lot. Just as I turned on the light, I saw this man dressed in black coming up the porch stairs. I saw no car, and even if he did have a car, he could not have possibly gotten to my house that quickly from *any* phone. Strangely, at the time I did not think of this but opened the door for him without even asking who he was. I do not do things this way ordinarily. He did not introduce himself, but simply came in. He was about 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighed perhaps about 140 pounds. He wore a black derby, a black jacket, black tie, white shirt, black trousers and shoes. I thought, 'He looks like an undertaker.' I was struck immediately by his immaculate attire. His suit had not a wrinkle and fitted him like a clothing store dummy. It didn't fill out his legs and arms. The crease in his pants was perfect and razor sharp. The suit looked as if he had just put it on. Everything about him seemed to be superperfect. He asked if he might sit down and I said, 'Yes.' As he sat down, the crease in his trousers even at the knees did not flatten but stood out.

"He removed his hat and I saw that he was completely hairless and had no eyebrows or eyelashes. He had a smooth face with no hair follicles. He had a small nose set low, and small ears, set low. His head and face were of a dead-white colour and his lips were a vivid red in stark contrast to his white face. His eyes were not remarkable – couldn't tell the colour, I must have been 12 feet away from him. I remained calm and unafraid as I appraised him. I wonder why? As he asked me about the Stephens case, I noted that he spoke in an expressionless, monotone, scanning speech. His voice – he spoke English, flawless, with no accent, but no sentences, no phrases, just a series of words.[5] His voice was completely neutral and passive.

"After I told him about the Stephens case, he said, 'That's just what I thought.' As I was telling him about the case, he idly put the backs of the fingers of one hand against his lips (he wore grey suede gloves, I noticed that the bright red of his lips had become smeared and the backs of his gloved fingers were stained red! This character was wearing lipstick!

"I thought, 'This is some kind of a queer.' His mouth was a perfectly straight slit, which he hardly opened. I didn't see any teeth. His head seemed to blend into his collar. He had a receding chin, and he did not move his head at any time; he didn't turn his head, nod, or anything. His head was perfectly stationary with the upper part of his body. As a matter of fact, I'd say with his entire body, except his legs.

"He then told me that I had two coins in my left

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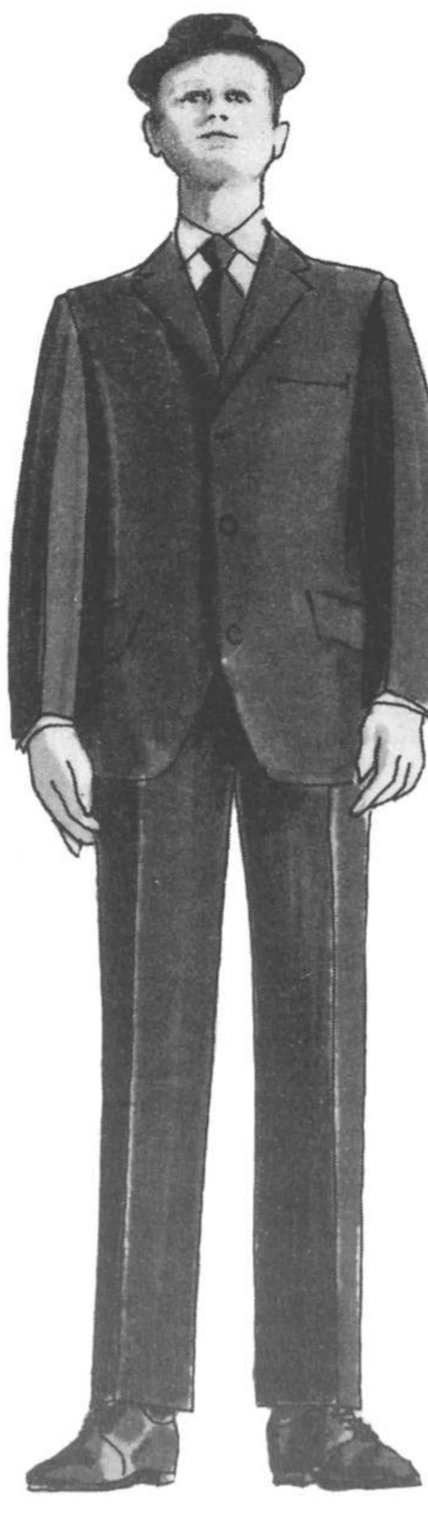
pocket, which was true, a dime and a penny. He told me to take one of the coins and hold it out in the palm of my open hand. I took the penny because it was the larger of the two coins. Perhaps a 25-cent piece would have been better. I placed the shiny new penny on the palm of my extended hand and looked towards the strange man. He said, 'Don't look at me, look at the coin.' I did, and the shiny new penny was now a bright silver colour. He told me to keep looking at the coin; as I did so the coin slowly became light blue in colour, and then it began to become blurred to my vision. My hand was in sharp focus, but try as I might I could not seem to focus on the silver-blue penny. It became more blurred, became round like a little blue fuzzy ball, and then became vaporous and gradually faded away. All the time this was going on I felt and heard nothing. I looked at him and said, 'That was a neat trick.'[6] I felt eerie at this and asked him to make the coin return. He said, 'Neither you nor anyone else on this *plane* (not planet) will ever see that coin again.'

"He then asked me if I knew why Barney Hill died, and I told him that I assumed it was the result of a long illness. He told me that this was not the case, that Barney Hill died because he knew too much. He then asked me if I knew how Barney Hill had died, and I told him I understood that he died of a heart attack (wrong information, I was to find out later).[7] He then told me that this was not correct, that he had died because he had no heart, just as I no longer have a coin. This frightened me. He then told me that I had tape recordings of the Stephens case and also correspondence relating to this case. I said that this was true. He then ordered me to destroy the tapes and any other correspondence and literature I might have pertaining to UFOs in any way, or I would suffer the same fate as Barney Hill. He said he would know when I had done this, but did not say that he would come back.

"As he spoke his last words, I noticed that his speech was slowing down. Slowly, and a bit unsteadily, he got to his feet and said, very slowly, 'M y e n e r g y i s r u n n i n g l o w – m u s t g o n o w – g o o d-b y e.' He walked in four steps to the door and I opened it for him . He clung tightly to the railing as he went down the steps, one foot at a time – one foot down, then the other next to it, before taking the next step – not one foot after another. I watched him as he very unsteadily and slowly walked to the corner of the building and the driveway. He was so unsteady I thought he might fall. I saw a very bright light shining up the driveway and thought that it must be coming from his car – but there was no light there when he arrived. The light was definitely brighter than automobile headlights and was bluish-white in colour. I immediately rushed to the nearby kitchen window and looked out to watch him, but I didn't see or hear anything and the light was gone. I rushed out to the front porch but saw no car leaving.

"He walked in a different direction from the driveway – 180° opposed to the direction that he came in. I can't remember seeing his shadow. And walking out that way there is no way he could get out because the house is on one side of the driveway and the hedge on the other. The hedge is dense and he'd have a hard time getting through it, especially in his weakened condition. When he didn't appear there, I went out the front door on to the front porch and stood there looking for some time, watching the driveway, waiting for him to come out, but he didn't appear, and no car left the driveway. Two or three cars passed by on the street in the meantime, and I didn't think to look up.



Pauline Bowen's impression of Dr. Hopkins' strange visitor, based on a sketch by Shirley Fickett

"I was much shaken and left all the lights on. The interview took only a matter of minutes. Oh, I don't know – twenty minutes. At no time was there any odour. When the man came to my house, the dog (half shepherd and half collie) barked, then put his tail between his legs, and hid in the closet (unusual behaviour). A mother cat and four newborn kittens and a Persian cat were apparently not affected.

"When my two sons and wife returned from the drive-in movie, about one and one-half hours later, I told them of this experience. My oldest boy suggested we examine the driveway for marks and he got a flashlight. We went out and found in the very middle of the driveway a series of marks that looked like a small caterpillar tractor tread. The marks were about four inches wide and continued for only about a foot and a half. There was nothing except this single set of marks. No automobile could have possibly made them because the driveway is too narrow for a car to get over far enough so that its wheels would be in the middle of the driveway. Also, they were too deep and distinct to have been made by a motorcycle, and, also, they did not continue for any length greater than that mentioned above. The marks were gone the next day (no one had used the driveway in the meantime).

"We went back inside and my family urged me to do as the man said. I erased the four tapes and then physically destroyed them in the fireplace. I burned some articles on UFOs and believe I had cleaned out everything. I called Shirley Fickett and asked her to contact the *National Enquirer* and tell them not to publish anything (on the Stephens case). Oh, how I hated to destroy those tapes. They weren't hurting anyone, but I wanted to be safe and I was really terrified at this point. I slept well that night, but a week later I had recurring nightmares in which I would see this creature's face getting bigger and closer. The nightmares stopped after a week and have not returned. We have had a lot of trouble since with the telephone[8] being cut off, clicks followed by background sounds indicating that there was an open line to another telephone somewhere, but never any voices. Also, people kept breaking in on phone calls. At the present time, however, the phone has not been disturbed any more. I hope this is the end!"

Mrs. Madeline Hopkins, R.N., the physician's wife, and their two sons and daughter-in-law, verified the account. Mrs. Hopkins recalled how surprised her two sons and she were when they returned home: "All the lights were on – on the porch, the front room, everywhere. I said that something was going on, so John (son) came in to find out. We saw my husband at the table which had a gun on it. I asked what went on? He started telling us the story. I said, 'Well, what good was the gun if he made a penny disappear?' I wish I had been there. But then, if I had been there, I don't think he (MIB) would have come."

II. Strange man and woman visit Dr. Hopkins' son and daughter-in-law.

Dr. Hopkins continued:–

"Here is a transcript of the strange case of John and Maureen Hopkins, my eldest son and his wife.

"Friday, September 24, 1976. Time of phone call 7.30 p.m. (dark). Weather: clear, dry and cool. Air quiet. Phone answered by Maureen. Conversation: name given as Bill Post. Party calling knew her name, and called her by her name, said he was the friend of a friend who knew John, but did not state who that person was. He stated that they were from Conway, New Hampshire, and were at King's department store in Biddeford. He asked if they were busy and if they were alone, and he wanted to know if he and his companion could come to visit. There was a pronounced buzzing on the phone and the man's voice sounded distorted. He wanted to know where they could meet and asked, 'Isn't there a McDonalds (fast food restaurant) close by you?' He said he was at King's shopping centre and that he could get there in 5 minutes. This would be impossible even under ideal conditions; also, this was a Friday evening and the traffic on U.S. Route 1 was very slow and congested in this area. It would take at least 25 to 30 minutes at this time and under these conditions to get from King's to McDonald's. He said he would recognise John's white van. (John's white van was disabled, in the garage, and he was using his mother's green Chevy, which the man did not know about.)

"It took John 3 minutes to get to McDonald's as it is quite close. When John drove into McDonald's a young man walked over to him and said, 'Hi, John.' The window was down and he extended his hand into the car to shake John's hand. He had previously described his car to Maureen over the phone and said it had temporary New Jersey plates on it. John recognized the car as described and noticed that it did have temporary New Jersey plates,[9] but the plates were devoid of any letters or numbers, merely saying: 'Temporary, N.J., 1975.' The man asked John where could they talk, and John suggested their mobile home. John asked the man to follow him, but they got separated due to a traffic light changing. John slowed down and saw the man's car cutting across the parking lot, going in back of the building, and coming out the driveway and stopping right in back of him. Evidently this person was very familiar with the territory and knew how to take a shortcut and to circumvent the red light. The car followed John to his mobile home.

"The man had a female companion. They were both Caucasian and appeared to be in their mid-thirties. He was about 5 feet 8 inches tall, medium build, about 160 pounds. He had dark hair, cut short and smoothly slicked down, a style not seen for many years. He wore a tan, short-sleeved shirt with matching buttons, open at the collar, no tie. His trousers were dark brown, neatly pressed, and had wide cuffs. Style of shoes was not noticed. He wore dark-rimmed glasses. His nose was small with two nostrils, brown normal-appearing eyes, medium-size ears set far back. His voice was high-pitched and had a nasal quality. His complexion was light. He was very talkative without really saying much of anything, and he was quite fidgety.

"His woman companion was about 5 feet 8 inches tall, 150 to 160 pounds, with a pronounced potbelly. She had small firm breasts set very low, below the

costal margin, and wore no bra. She wore a plain white blouse, black and white checked skirt of an unknown material (seemed it may have been plastic), nylon stockings, black shoes, the slip-on type with small heels which we do not see now. She talked very little, with a whining voice. She had excessive makeup by today's standards, including very red lips. When she stood up, she seemed quite off-centre in relation to the way her legs seemed to join her hips. She walked with very short steps as did her male companion, and leaned forward as though she might fall. She wore no glasses, and her blue eyes appeared to be normal: her nose had a sharp pointed ridge. She had small ears set well back, and very light blonde hair pulled back in a bun. Both presented a rather old-fashioned appearance, perhaps of 20 or more years ago.

"When John and the strangers arrived, Maureen was looking at a Jacques Cousteau underwater TV show which was still on. The man commented that the type of submarine being used was elementary. He downgraded it and indicated that the underwater work being shown was child's play.

"Then while Maureen was in the kitchen, and he was alone with them, John asked them to sit down. The man turned to the girl and said, 'Yes, Jane, I guess we can sit down for a little while, can't we?' John asked them if they would like something to drink (non-alcoholic), and the man answered, 'We don't drink, take drugs, or anything.' John then said that he meant soft drinks like Coca Cola. Both accepted Cokes but did not even taste them.

"The man asked John if he watched TV much and what he watched. The man and his companion seemed startled when John told them that both he and his wife watched TV frequently. It was difficult for John to explain to them that he and his wife did most things together. The man said that he knew where John's father lived and asked him if he talked to his father very much and what they talked about. He kept at this point, asking: 'Well, did you talk about anything else?' He never got to the point of the three-letter-word I choose not to mention.

"He then said, 'The sky is very clear tonight,' and said, 'You are going to be in amateur radio [no equipment visible, but John, like his father, was involved]. What are you going to use your transmitter for?' When John told him, he asked, 'Is that all?' He asked what kind of literature John and Maureen read. John told him that they read many different things but did not elaborate, and the visitor answered, 'Yes, I know.'

"John went into the kitchen where Maureen was preparing something to eat and asked her to come back with him because he did not want to be alone. Reluctantly she joined them. The man asked John what he did and John told him he was a musician, and the visitor seemed puzzled. While questioning John, he kept pawing and fondling his female companion while repeatedly asking John if it was all right to do this and if he was doing it right.

"John left the room to answer the phone, and the man asked Maureen to sit beside him on the couch, but she refused. While John was on the phone, she man also asked Maureen how she was made. She said, 'Oh, what do you mean?' He said, 'I mean, how are you built?' She answered: 'Well, I guess I'm built just like any other girl.' Then he asked her if she had any nude pictures of herself so he could see how she was built and to study the pictures. She was upset and refused, saying 'Certainly not,' that she had none. John returned to the room and that was the end of that part of the conversation.[10]

"The man said to John: 'You are going to New Jersey.' John did have plans to go to New Jersey, but he had not said so to this couple. The man told him to forget the route that the Automobile Club had given to him and that he would tell him how to get there. He then told of a detailed and complicated way to get to New Jersey, which avoided turnpikes and other well-travelled ways and, instead, used all out-of-the way back roads and numerous detours. Later, out of curiosity, John tried to check out some of these roads and found some of them discontinued, some of them re-routed, and some of them no longer considered back roads but now improved main roads.

"That was the end of the visit. The female stood up and said she wanted to leave. Her male companion also stood up but did not start to leave. She repeated to him several times that she wanted to leave, but he did not move. Finally, she said to John, in apparent desperation: 'Please move him; I can't move him myself.' He was standing closer to the door than she was, but not blocking her exit.

"John finally said, 'Well, I think you'd better go now.' and tried to calm her down. There were no obstacles – he, she, and the door were in direct line, and apparently the only way she could go to the door was to go directly to it through him: he had to move. The man seemed to want to sit down again, but suddenly left, followed by the female, walking a perfectly straight line, exactly over the spot where he had been standing. They didn't even say good-bye,

"My oldest son had not been able to sleep for a week prior to this visit and for a week after that. I prescribed some Dalmane for him. He said it didn't do much good. However, there was no apparent effect on my other son, wife, or daughter-in-law. Approximately a few weeks after the visit, the man telephoned and spoke to Maureen. He apologized for anything he might have done that seemed inappropriate or out of place, or if they didn't like the way he acted. He was sorry for that and said it wouldn't happen again. He asked if they could please talk some more. However, Maureen just cut him off by saying she didn't want anything to do with people like them."[11]

References and Notes

1. Raynes, Brent, J.: "The Twilight of a UFO Encounter," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 22 (No.2): 11–13, July, 1976.
2. Fickett, Shirley, M.: "The Maine UFO Encounter," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 22 (No.2): 14–17, July, 1976.
3. Schwarz, B.E.: "Psychiatric-paranormal Aspects of the Maine Encounter," *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 22 (No.2) 18–22, July, 1976.
4. As far as I (BES) am aware, there is no New Jersey UFO Research Organization. Possibly this title was chosen

because I am the only New Jersey link to David Stephen's case.

5. Edwards, P.M.H., Ph.D.: "The Interpretive Dilemma" (Part One), *Canadian UFO Report,* Vol. 4 (No.1): 13–15 (Fall), 1976; (Part Two), *Ibid.* Vol. 4 (No.2): 10–11 (Winter), 1976-77.
6. The exact circumstances of the disappearing coin were described to Walter B. Gibson, at his home on February 17, 1977. In addition to being a magician himself, Mr. Gibson had written numerous books and articles on his friends Houdini, Thurston, Blackstone, and Dunninger, and had also authored 282 novels on The Shadow. He could not think of any explanation for the "neat trick." Although in my researches of gifted sensitives I have never seen dematerialization (or materialization!), I have witnessed some impressive demonstrations of negative telepathic hallucinations by Jacques Romano (*The Jacques Romano Story,* University Books, Inc., New York, 1968, pp. 3–4).
7. Mrs. Betty Hill visited Dr. Hopkins and his family and reassured them that "Barney's death was a stroke and not a heart attack."
8. I had recorded Mrs. Fickett's and Dr. Hopkin's telephone conversations on September 16, 1976 and September 20, 1976 on my Lanier Edisette dictating equipment while simultaneously making written records. When my secretary was preparing to type the protocols, I was shocked to hear her say, "Nothing came through, except a slow, low-pitched, unintelligible growl." This could not be remedied by using four other tape recorders that I had access to, and also a variable-speed special taping apparatus utilized by the electronic inventor Donald Selwyn of the National Institute for Rehabilitation Engineering, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. My office equipment has seldom given trouble. When there has been some difficulty, it was easily localized and repaired. In this case a large part of the recording having to do with the MIB description was ruined.

   On December 27, 1976, at 9.00 p.m., I had telephoned Betty Hill and compared notes about the latest developments in the David Stephens case (see reference 11) and Dr. Hopkins's MIB experience with the particular reference to Barney Hill. When I hung up, I learned that an upstairs fuse had blown which knocked out many circuits in the house, including my consultation room lamp. Since I couldn't find the trouble, an electrician was called the next day and he could not understand why the fuse had blown since none of the circuits had overloaded (see "Talks with Betty Hill, FSR, Volume 23, Nos 2, 3 and 4, 1977).

   When I was checking one of the fuse boxes in the cellar, the office phone rang. I ran upstairs and found there was only a dial tone. The phone was out of order, and the next day the telephone repair man was called. When the phone was in order again, and I tried to call Dr. Hopkins, more than an estimated twenty-five times over a period of four days, to make arrangements for my visit with him, I either got no answer, or there was a busy signal. Dr. Hopkins later told me that someone was at home all that time and his phone was not in continuous use.
9. The Montclair Police Department and the Motor Vehicle Registration Office stated that temporary New Jersey license plates are good for only 20 days, and, as Dr. Hopkins surmised, they have letters and serial numbers. Thus, if the observation is correct, the plates that were devoid of numbers or letters, and had a date of 1975, would be hard to account for through official sources.
10. I have touched upon some of the sexual aspects of the UFO cases elsewhere (*Flying Saucer Review,* Vol. 17, No. 2: 4–9, March/April, 1971; *ibid;* No. 3: 21–17, May/June, 1971; and "Talks with Betty Hill," *Flying Saucer Review* Vol. 23, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, 1977). However, mention might be made of one unreported situation which had some parallels to the experience of Maureen and John Hopkins and which involved a leading Ohio UFO investigator, Mrs. Geri Wilhelm. Space precludes detailing many of her group's UFO sightings and investigations and presumed related poltergeist effects. However, as a background to the Hopkins's experience, three things that happened to the Wilhems involved: (1) the electric oven being maximally (and dangerously) heated when the switches were in the "off" position; (2) Mrs. Wilhelm's observation or hallucination of a little man in a silver suit, who was not seen by her husband who was with her at the time, but who was later seen independently by her daughter who knew nothing of her mother's observation; and (3) Mr. Wilhelm's once being run off the highway by an MIB-like pursuer who tried to crunch him into a trailer truck and then into a gulley.

    I visited the family on September 11, 1974, and checked out their accounts. Whatever the meaning of so many of their odd experiences, two events might be relevant to the Hopkins MIB case. One evening after an appearance on TV about UFOs, Mrs. Wilhelm received a call from a man with a Germany accent. He told her about HG, a famous scientist, and said Mrs. Wilhelm should telephone him. She did so, and noted that HG also had a German accent. He made many lurid and grandiose claims about himself and UFOs. Although the telephone recording of the first caller was intact, the HG conversation, as it was later discovered, did not record. "It sounded like I was talking long distance. There were bee–beeps and high-pitched noises. We were frequently interrupted as he was being called to other phones. I could overhear him talking a different type of language – real gibberish. He sounded angry and strange." HG was insistent upon meeting Mrs. Wilhelm, and she finally compromised on a nearby bowling alley.

    Being an adventurous person, she went off in high spirits but left the recording by the telephone with a note for her husband, in the event anything might happen to her. HG said that an Apollo XVI patch would be his calling card, and that she should bring "a little money, so that we can sit and have a drink," and he mentioned a strange name of a type of drink. Mrs. Wilhelm walked over to the bowling alley and met HG, who showed her his Apollo XVI patch. He said: "I'm really not HG. "I'm possessing the body of HG. I'm making it do what it is doing." Mrs. Wilhelm related: "I got him a beer and myself a coke. I got him another beer and he told me how beautiful I was and said that since his wife had been killed in an accident, he'd like me to give up everything I have on earth, marry him, and go to his planet. He said he had kept one space in the saucer that was leaving and that it would arise from Tylersville at 8 o'clock that evening and that he would be flying over the townhouse where I lived." Mrs. W. recalled that when she went to buy the second beer for HG, there was another family sitting in the booth behind them and that the World Series was on television. The lady asked HG who was winning and he answered with, "What is the World Series?" The lady said, "What do you mean? Anyone who lives in America knows what the World Series is." When Mrs. Wilhelm got back to the table, the lady told her about the conversation and said, "Where is this man from? He has to be from out of this world. He's sincere, but he really doesn't know. He told me he's too much in love with you to care about the World Series."

    When HG discussed the subject of God and his alleged inhabitance of the planet Terrapin, the creatures, etc., Mrs. Wilhelm became upset and left by a side entrance. She thought of going to the front where the parking lot was and get the licence number of his Mazda car. However she was fearful that if she did that, she might never see her husband and two children again, so she walked directly home.

When Mrs. Wilhelm returned home and told her husband about what happened, she said it was odd because at the time of Geri's interview with HG their four-year-old daughter came downstairs, sat on her father's lap, and told him that her mother was at the bowling alley with a man who had a ring on his left hand. This was strange because Angel had no idea where her mother was going nor that the man had a ring on his left hand. Mrs. Wilhelm said HG reminded her of the "perfect example of a German Reich type of person that Hitler said would be the superior race: he was a little over 6 feet tall, had white hair, big blue eyes, and wore a wedding ring, plus another ring that looked like a college ring."

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm thought the experience was a hoax, even if it was well planned, until that night when she and another investigator received calls from different people near Tylersville Road saying that a saucer-shaped craft was rising out of the woods. The time was 8 o'clock, as HG had said.

"The feelings I had were of evil when I was in his (HG) presence. I'm thankful for the fact that I believe in God, and I had Him with me at all times."

A friend and associate UFO investigator of Mrs. Wilhelm, BR, who knew about the HG incident, once called and asked HG to tell her about what happened. However, he refused to talk about it. Discreet inquiries by additional Ohio UFO investigators discovered that HG's listed house number was not correct, that according to his fellow workers at the factory, where he was well thought of, he had no previous interest in UFOs; and because he was of a rather introverted and shy nature, the above-cited experience would have been completely out of character. Even up to my most recent telephone follow-up (February 22, 1977) this information has remained unchanged. However, the varied psychic and telekinetic effects in Mrs. Wilhelm's home and family life persist.

After I interviewed Mrs. Wilhelm in the presence of her mother, Mrs. Sherrin, and two other friends, and listened to the HG telephone-recorded tape, I was aware that here again was an opportunity (note p. 26, *Flying Saucer Review,* Vol. 17 (No.2): 4–9, March/April, 1971; *Flying Saucer Review,* Vol. 17 (No.3): 21–27, May/June, 1971) to interview a parent of a leading UFO experient. I wasn't disappointed because after conducting a psychiatric-paranormal survey, Mrs. Sherrin, who had a responsible job in a photograph studio and seemed to be a straightforward lady, free of any relevant UFO psychopathology, recalled how approximately a year and a half previous to my interview, she received a call, one January evening, from her favourite Aunt Lorraine (mother's sister): "She was four years older than I. Were were like sisters. We talked about different things we had done in the past, places we had been together, just sort of reminiscing. I was home alone. This went on for about half an hour, but when I hung up, I thought 'It was Lorraine! But she's dead. She was killed instantly in an automobile accident six or seven months ago! I even get chills now, talking about it. In fact I was so upset, I dialled her number but nobody answered."

My question that uncovered this example was prompted by a hunch based on a previous 'telephone voice from the dead' case (see Schwarz, B.E.: Telepathic Humoresque, *The Psychoanalytic Review,* Vol. 61 (No.4): 591–606, 1974–75, example 12, pp. 600–602, and of another case, where after an APRO symposium (Pottstown, Pa., June 15, 1974), an elderly couple asked me about an experience in which, after their car was followed by a UFO for several hours, they received a telephone call the next morning from a voice saying it was Roger. They knew of no Roger, but the voice identified himself – a "forgotten family secret" – as being the brother of one of the experients who died as a baby. These examples, for whatever they are worth, should not be dogmatically construed as proving anything, but they merely indicate the uniqueness of some of the UFO-related material, which is begging for a prolonged, detailed psychiatric-paranormal study of the experients and their families.

11. During the Hopkins family's stressful post-MIB period, there were some new developments with David Stephens, the young man who, with his friend, had the alleged teleportation and who was studied hypnotically by Dr. Hopkins. Mrs. Shirley Fickett wrote me on September 20, 1976, that on Friday night (September 17) David visited her and reported an intensification of activity: "His friends are seeing these things (UFOs). Lights came on and stayed on; TV doing the same; the refrigerator door opened and slammed itself; the outside door then opened and didn't stay shut. Someone said something about UFOs and the kitchen table slid out 5 to 6 inches from the wall. Four people saw this."

Mrs. Shirley Fickett also wrote me: "It was on September 17, 1976, that I received a call from Mrs. Herbert Hopkins, stating that her husband had experienced a visit from an unearthly 'man in black,' who told him to rid his property of all UFO material. Dr. Hopkins was upset and did not speak to me on the phone. Later than afternoon I went to his residence and he carefully related the incident of the night before. I wrote down his exact words and forwarded them to Dr. Schwarz.

"On September 13, 1976, as Mrs. Bea Stephens, David's mother, was cooking a spaghetti supper, she reached for a bowl in the cupboard above the boiling water on the stove. The bowl slipped from her hand and the water burned her abdomen. She was home alone at the time and rushed to her physician. When she and her husband, who had previously been at the store, returned home, he looked up at the ceiling and noted spots where the water had hit and also three 7s on the cupboard, above the refrigerator. The numbers gradually faded away, but on September 17, 1976, I received a call from the Stephenses telling me that the number 7 in reverse had appeared on Bea's abdomen among the markings from the burns received on the 13th. The following day I was visited by the Stephenses, and Mrs. Stephens let me photograph her abdomen. However the photo did not come out. During the visit, Mr. Gene Stephens drew a picture of the 7s on the cupboard door, which I (Shirley Fickett) have redrawn (see Figure 1, a)."

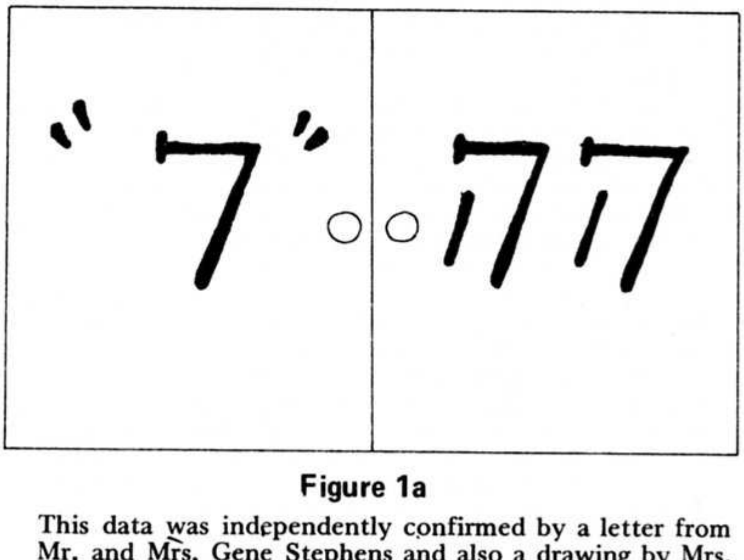


Figure 1a

This data was independently confirmed by a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stephens and also a drawing by Mrs. Stephens of the reverse 7 on her abdomen (see Figure 1, b). It is of more than passing interest to compare Mrs. Stephen's periumbilical reverse 7 which corresponded with the 7s on the cupboard doors with Michel's spectacular case where the doctor developed a geomet-

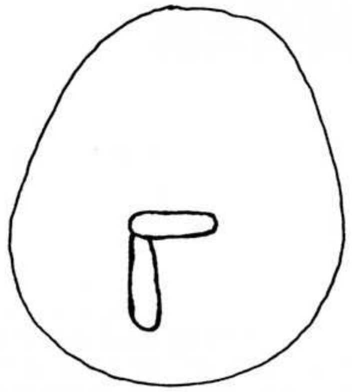


Figure 1b

rically perfect trianble in the umbilical region shortly before his son also developed a triangle in the same region (see Michel, Aime: The Strange Case of Dr. "X", *Flying Saucer Review, UFO Percipients*, Special Issue No.3: 3–16, September, 1969).

Another thing: David was stopped by the police because his one headlight was out, and he was asked for his driver's licence, which he didn't have. The police radiod Augusta and the reply came back that David Stephens was deceased as of last October (the alleged teleportation happened October 27, 1975). David was told he was an imposter, and he resisted arrest. Help was called and three men showed up. David panicked, and was jailed after a fight. They kept telling him that he was not David Stephens. Finally after three hours, they let him go, after taking fingerprints. Later he checked and there were no records of this imbroglio!, nor of other things that occurred that night! (For a similar case of missing police records see footnote on the Hackettstown case, pp.8 to 9, *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 18 (No.1): 3–12 Jan/Feb., 1972).

PROBING INTO OTHER DIMENSIONS

Eileen Buckle

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY by **Stephen Jenkins.** Neville Spearman Ltd., Sudbury 1977

ONE of the reasons ufology is such an intriguing and worthwhile study to pursue, for me anyway, is the possible light it may shed on the nature of reality. Not that I consider the UFO entities themselves necessarily wish to shed that light for us, and indeed their intention may be to obscure it as much as possible. But so long as we don't believe everything that "They" tell us, there is a good chance that some *clues* may be gained as to the source of their origin, whether it be physical, metaphysical or hyperphysical, and what relationship it has to our physical Earth. What conditions are necessary for a "manifestation" of either a UFO or a related phenomenon is another important question.

The idea that "They" may come from "other planes of being" has been strongly advanced by the evidence presented by John Keel and Jacques Vallée in their writings. A further contribution towards the "other realities" viewpoint in ufological research is Stephen Jenkin's book *The Undiscovered Country* (Neville Spearman). Although the author is familiar with Keel and Vallée's works and discusses several of the issues dealt with by them, e.g. the Fátima case, he has some fresh angles to offer, and some quite new material which includes a number of bizarre personal experiences. Not content with merely theorising and speculating, he has got down to thorough and painstaking research in the field, such as the correlating of UFO and paranormal happenings with leys, especially where three or more ley-lines meet ("nodes").

In spite of having had quite a few strange, psychic-type experiences Stephen Jenkins says he is not particularly psychic. But he has a most unusual personal background which may well have brought out latent faculties, and also anyone actively researching into entities normally invisible is likely to meet unusual experiences. A senior history master at a leading public school, the author is, of course, well trained in western modes of thought. In 1970, while a lecturer at the State University of Mongolia, he became the first westerner to be initiated into a rare school of Mahayana Buddhism, the Wheel of Time System, or Kalacakra, by a high Mongolian lama. This embodies teachings about the realm of Shambhala, a mysterious country which the author regards as having a connection with strange tales of UFO entities. Study of these ideas from ancient Asia revealed that a surprising number of them appeared to tie in with what Keel and Vallée have to say about the background to the UFO beings.

Stephen Jenkins has requested that an erroneous statement he made in the book concerning what he thought had been an omission on the part of Gordon Creighton in *The Humanoids* be brought to FSR readers' attention here, and hopes this will make amends. In referring to the Antônio Villas Boas case, which was reported in full in *The Humanoids* by Gordon Creighton, Mr. Jenkins states that the latter had accounted for the occurrence purely in orthodox materialistic terms, simply as a physical experience, without being aware of the echoes in the story of the ancient traditions of incubus and succubus. But as many of our readers will be aware, Gordon Creighton *did* discuss this aspect of the case in FSR Vol. 11, No. 4, in an article entitled "Postscript to the Most Amazing Case of All". Unfortunately Stephen Jenkins had not been aware of this article.

Error apart, *The Undiscovered Country* is good reading, offering food for thought for all interested in the UFO enigma, and will probably inspire many others to take up research into ley-lines in association with "odd" happenings.

MORE ON THE COYNE HELICOPTER CASE

Jennie Zeidman

IN Vol. 22, No. 4 of *Flying Saucer Review* I discussed *The Coyne Case*, an apparent close encounter between a UH–1H helicopter of US Army Reserve and an unidentified lighted object. The event took place on October 18, 1973, at 11.05 p.m. near Mansfield, Ohio, in the midst of a full-blown "flap" which spread over the eastern United States and produced several reports of particular interest (the Pascagoula, Mississippi, fishermen incident had taken place the previous week).

On the basis of intensive interviews of Captain (now Major) Lawrence J. Coyne and two of his three crew members, it was established than an unidentified bright red light rapidly approached their helicopter from the south-eastern horizon, decelerated to a near-hovering relationship in front of, and above, their machine, then accelerated once more, made a decisive course change, continued its flight, and disappeared on the northwest horizon.

The object was described as cigar-shaped, with sharply delineated edges; the red light on the nose, a white light at the tail, and a green light aft/below, which swung around in the manner of a manoeuvrable spotlight and threw a "pyramid-shaped" beam of intense green light into the cockpit. There were apparent malfunctions of the radios and the magnetic compass, and a climb of 1800 feet for which the pilot disclaims responsibility.

Analysis of the crew testimony points to an uninterrupted observational time of approximately 5 minutes (a revision downward from a previous estimate of 5.5 minutes) and on the basis of the time reconstruction, the precise positions of the lights, the horizon-to-horizon flight path, the sharply delineated structure, and the deceleration at closest approach, any suggestion of a meteor hypothesis was considered to be untenable.

The investigation has continued. The next question put to test was: "Could the object have been a high-performance aircraft?"

The table contrasts *what was reported* (left-hand column) with *objections to the object being a normal aircraft or helicopter* (on the right). In summary, neither the flight characteristics of the unknown object, nor the light configuration, or the speed of the object at an altitude of 2500 feet above sea level, conform to the flight capabilities of conventional aircraft, or to the Federal Air Regulations governing aircraft in US airspace at night.

Ground witnesses to the event have now been found and interrogated[1]. First off, we now know the exact location of the event: about a mile-and-a half farther to the west than the projected course of the helicopter, at the shore of a large reservoir, 997 feet above sea level. Thus the previously published chart showing altitude vs. elapsed time must be recalibrated. The helicopter, at lowest altitude and closest approach of the object, was about 700 feet, not 400 feet above the terrain. The previous chart had been necessarily based on the highest elevations in the hilly wooded area, which are 1300 feet above sea level.

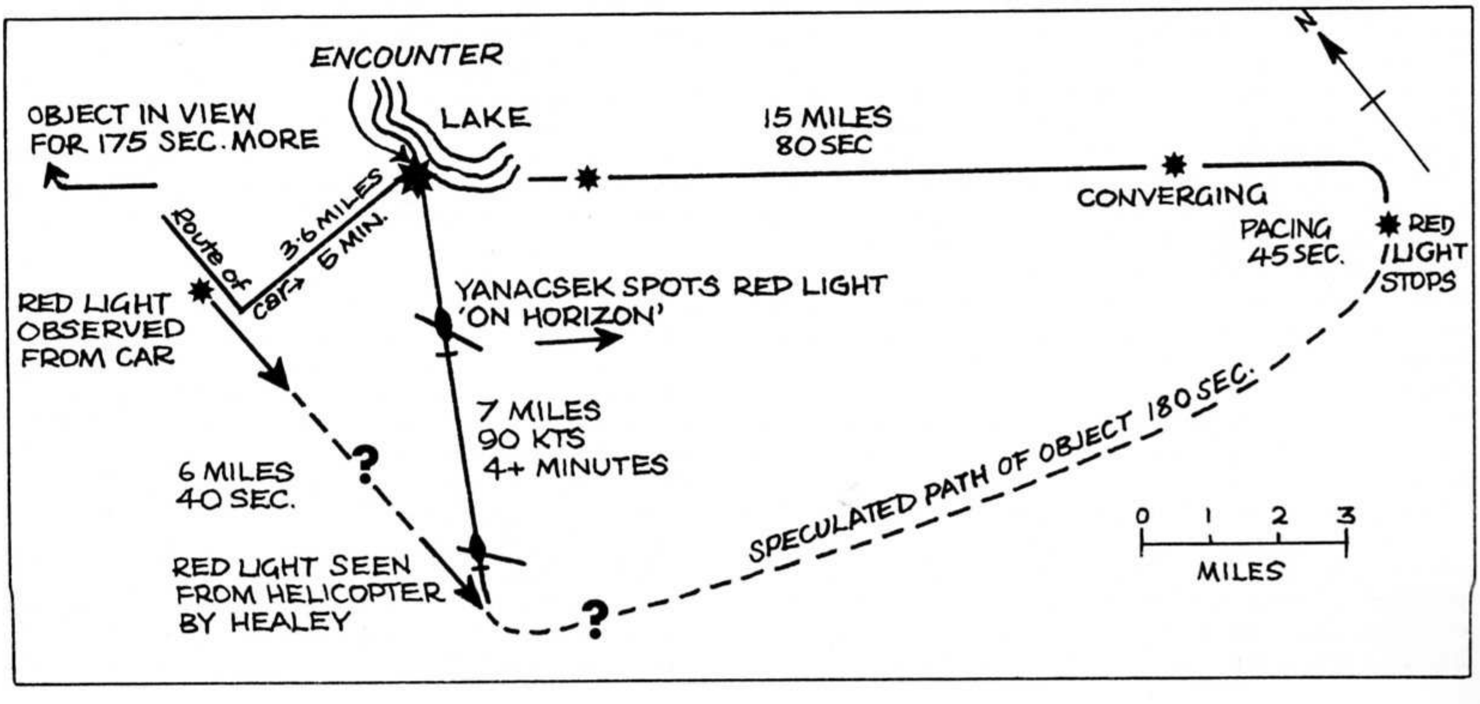
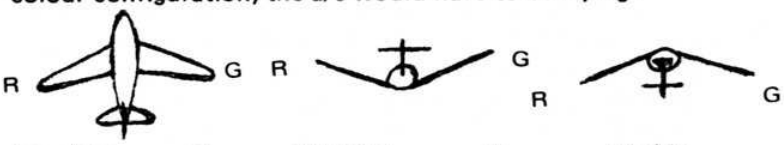


TABLE:

	Reported	Objections
1)	**Reported:** object motion R · G W light positions	**Objections:** In order for any fixed-wing aircraft to present the reported colour-configuration, the a/c would have to be flying:  top view or tail view flying sideways! or upside down head-on None of the above take into account the bright white "tail" light.
2)	**Reported:** Object as slowest speed as it passed directly in front of and was closest to the helicopter.	**Objections:** a) A fixed-wing a/c moving across the line of sight at generally constant velocity would appear to move most rapidly when passing directly in front of the observer. b) A fixed-wing a/c would not have the capability of decelerating from jet speeds to near-hover within a few seconds. c) A helicopter would have the ability to hover, but would not be capable of the high forward speeds reported.
3)	**Reported:** Object had very bright red light on nose.	**Objection:** No conventional aircraft carries a bright red light on the nose.
4)	**Reported:** No noise or turbulence was noted during the close approach of the object.	**Objections:** a) A conventional aircraft, if within 500', would have produced noise heard inside the helicopter. b) The night was calm and the flight totally smooth. Any turbulence would have been noted as an anomaly.
5)	**Reported:** All lights on the unknown were constant.	**Objection:** FAA requires either a strobe or a rotating beacon on top or bottom of fuselage.
6)	**Reported:** Object at speeds as high as 600 kts at altitude as low as 1800 feet msl.	**Objection:** FAR Part 91 stipulates that below 10,000' msl no aircraft shall fly faster than 250 kts.
7)	**Reported:** Unknown object presented bright white light as a tail light.	**Objections:** a) Conventional aircraft do not have bright white tail lights. b) Neither piston nor jet aircraft present bright white engine exhaust.
8)	**Reported:** (Cgecked by Coyne) No FAA records of other aircraft in the area. Last F-100 landed at Mansfield at 10.47pm.	**Objections:** Same
9)	**Reported:** Jezzi saw no object, only a light. Others, including ground witnesses, saw essentially a smooth featureless cigar shape.	**Objection:** Some of the feautres of a conventional aircraft should have been seen: e.g., wings, engine pods, windows, empennage, logo, numbers.

WAS THE COYNE OBJECT A HIGH-PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT?

The ground witnesses – a mother and four children – were returning to their rural home from a visit to Grandma in Mansfield. As they drove south, they first observed a single steady red light, brighter than a normal aircraft port-wing light, which was flying south "like a jet at medium altitude." For those readers without an FSR Vol. 23, No. 4, close at hand, let me recapitulate: Sgt. Healey, one of the helicopter crewmen, observed a light of precisely this description and course "three to four minutes" before the beginning of the "main event" observation, when the helicopter was approximately seven miles to the south-west of the encounter site (see sketch). Whether the two red lights (and indeed, the object of the encounter) were all one and the same of course cannot be established. However, the times and distances fit nicely: the light would have had ample time to travel south (40 seconds) cross

behind the helicopter and swing out to the horizon (180 seconds) pace (45 seconds) and make the run back to the helicopter (80 seconds) – if one assumes (as was reported) that the light was capable of 600 kt. speeds.

About five minutes after this initial observation by the ground witnesses, as they were now driving eastward along a deserted rural road to the reservoir bridge approach, the "main event" began for them.

Ahead, to the ESE, two bright lights – red and green – appeared in the sky, seemingly coming down rapidly toward them. Angular distance between the lights was small and the colours blended together. The red light was the leading one and the more predominant colour. There was no noise. The mother pulled over to the shoulder and over her protestations the two eldest children (step-siblings, both age 13) got out of the car. Coming from the SW then (at the car's five o'clock position) and making "a lot of racket, a loud beating noise" appeared a helicopter.[2]

The two objects converged, the unidentified object assuming a hovering position over the helicopter, and the green light flared up, bathing the helicopter, the road, the car and the trees in green light.

"It was like rays coming down" the witnesses reported. The object was variously described as "a blimp," "a cigar," or "a school bus." The children scrambled with fright back into the car, and the mother started to drive ahead to the east (the car lights and motor had been kept on). The helicopter continued its course, flying off over the lake to the NE in an apparently normal climb, while the unidentified object "paced" the witness car for about 100 feet, then reversed its direction and proceeded to climb out towards Mansfield, seven miles to the NW.

The only discrepancy in the crew vs. ground witness testimony lies in the last bit about the object pacing the car towards the east; otherwise the independentd descriptions of the event are astonishingly compatible.*

My purpose in these two articles has been to demonstrate that the mere casual interviewing of UFO percipients may not only be inconclusive, but blatantly misleading, especially if the investigator has pre-conceived notions and goes only so far, or in whatever direction, to substantiate his own prejudices.[3] Such are the methods of the hysteric, not the scientist, and such methods do not reflect the dispassionate procedures requisite to an open-minded, yet critical inquiry.

It is unfortunate that week-end UFO interviews are often the only investigation that a potentially high-yield case is afforded. I am certain that a great deal of information on the Coyne incident remains uncollected – that after several months of "week-end interviewing" I have still barely scratched the surface. Lord knows some significant work has been done in this way (by Ted Bloecher and Ted Phillips in the United States, for example) yet, a mystery incompletely reported cannot be a mystery solved, and I think that only through well-subsidized, full-time, highly skilled and equipped investigators and analysts with immediate reaction capability will we see meaningful progress in this field.

* A report and analysis (72 pages) covering in greater detail these and other aspects of the case – the apparent equipment malfunctions, the apparently unexplained climb, and some insight into the personalities of the witnesses – is now available from the Center for UFO Studies.

Notes

1. Credit for finding the ground witnesses and for the first two major interviews with them goes to William E. Jones and Warren Nicholson. Subsequent interview and analysis by this writer.
2. A Huey helicopter does indeed make a very loud and distinctive "racket."
3. Phillip J. Klass, who so defiantly expounds the meteor theory in his book *UFO's Explained* (1974, Random House) and in other publications, never interviewed Coyne face-to-face, did not concern himself with basic principles of meteoritics, did not know the exact site of the encounter, nor did he know of the ground witnesses.

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A RUSSIAN "JELLYFISH"

Gordon Creighton

TWENTY YEARS AGO, when the Russians were stealing a march on the world with their first *sputnik* (and fondly imagining that they were going to be the undisputed masters of the world in Space Research — a dream that failed to materialize because they still do not have the requisite technological edge on the USA) the Soviet press used to carry a vast amount of speculative and educational articles on such issues as interplanetary travel, life in the Cosmos, and so on. Even something that looked suspiciously like a UFO sighting occasionally managed to sneak into their press, though naturally always with the correct "explanation," and we were sometimes able to publish such items in *Flying Saucer Review*. Such outrageous subjects as "landings" or "humanoid occupants" were of course thoroughly taboo in Russia, and I recall one interesting occasion when the Soviet press lashed itself into a considerable lather to prove that "...little men from a landed flying saucer had *not* been seen rushing about in Kazakhstan and asking people for sweets" (from which I instantly concluded that there *had* to be some truth in any report that required such vigorous denial).

In more recent years, since the USSR Academy of Sciences came out strongly in support of Condon with lengthy articles in *Pravda* and *Izvestiya* demonstrating conclusively that all the chatter about UFOs was nothing but un-Marxist twaddle and unscientific nonsense, the subject over there seems to have been reduced to a pretty low profile, if one can use the current jargon. Throughout the period since then, *Flying Saucer Review* has continued to have its readers in the USSR, and we have continued to have our own "pipeline" to the group of dedicated UFO researchers in that country. And now, suddenly, there are again some indications of a change. It looks, for example, as though there is a considerable traffic there in clandestine *samizdat* material (unofficial typewritten or multigraphed writings, passing "underground" from hand to hand) not only on matters relating to the basic and vital questions of freedom and human rights, but also, believe it or not, about UFOs!

And now, once more, we have received what looks like a UFO report from the Soviet press, and I take this opportunity to express our very special thanks to that Soviet reader of *Flying Saucer Review*, and his colleagues, who were good enough to send me a copy of the Moscow newspaper *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* ("Socialist Industry") for September 23, 1977. (There was even a brief item about the report in the London *Daily Telegraph*,[1] and an abbreviated AP version of it in *El Nuevo Dia* of Puerto Rico, also on September 23 — our thanks to Sr. Sebastian Robiou Lamarche of Puerto Rico — and no doubt in other newspapers.)

One is naturally tempted to speculate as to why such a thing as a UFO report should ever need to get into a Soviet paper at all, for the controls are highly efficient. Maybe the clue in the present case lies in the fact that, as the report itself makes clear, the phenomenon had been observed by a great many members of the public. One can understand that, in such cases, it may sometimes be felt wiser to publish than to reach for the blue pencil.

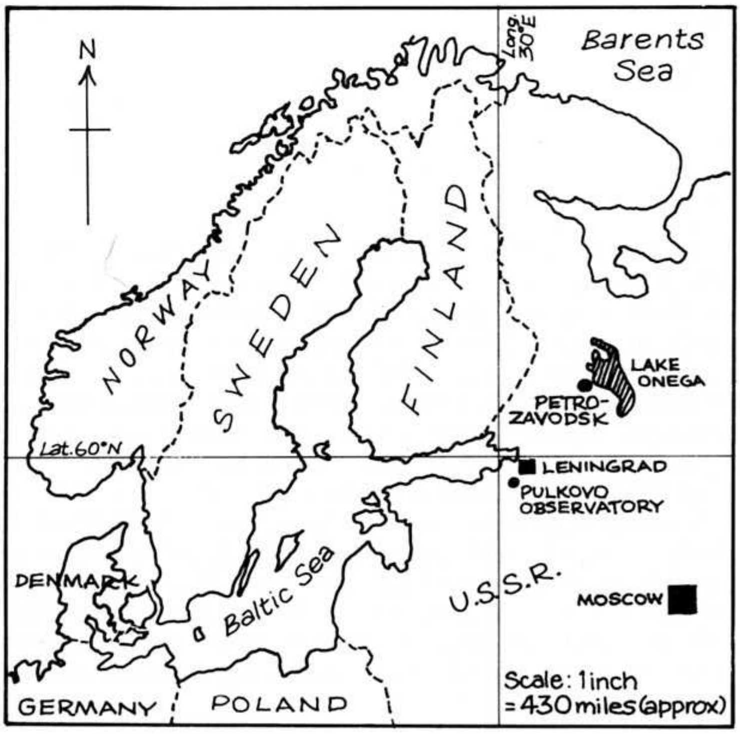
Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya is, as its title makes clear, a specialized journal devoted to industrial matters, and an organ of the TSK KPSS (Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR). Unfortunately we do not know whether any account of the sighting got into the really big Russian mass-readership papers like *Pravda* and *Izvestia*. (Since however we have received no other clippings, I think we can take it as certain that there were none.)*

The most important point to be noted is that the Russian witnesses are quoted as having described "... a huge, shining, *Medusa*-like something" that hovered overhead and poured down a rain of fine beams of light. The word *meduza* in Russian is the ordinary term for a *jellyfish*[2] (cf. French *meduse* and Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, *medusa*) the name deriving of course from the original Greek *medousa.*[3]

The good folk of the remote north Russian town of Petrozavodsk are not — so far as I am aware — UFO buffs or avid readers of *FSR* or *LDLN*, and they are therefore hardly likely to know that the literature of "our subject" already contains precisely such accounts, in which the same simile, *medusa*, or *jellyfish*, is employed. I have not the time now to search for these cases, but *FSR* readers will no doubt remember some of them. There was one particularly good case not long ago in France, in which there was a vivid description of the long streamers of light pouring down from the "jellyfish" like the snaky locks of the Gorgon. There was also the case of the *Leibnitz Spider* in Austria in March 1960; the photograph of it which appeared in *FSR* (Vol.6, No.4, July/August 1960, p.16) was also not unlike a "medusa."

Here now is my translation from the issue of *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya*, published in Moscow on September 23, 1977. The article was headlined: **An Unknown Natural Phenomenon.** It was signed by TASS News Agency representative **N. Milov** of Petrozavodsk:

"Inhabitants of Petrozavodsk have witnessed an unusual phenomenon of nature. At about 4.00 o'clock on the morning of September 20, an enormous 'star' flashed into view on the dark horizon, emitting pulsed[4] clusters of beams of light.



This 'star' moved slowly towards Petrozavodsk and, coming to a halt overhead, it bathed the whole town in a mass of extremely fine beams that gave the impression of a torrential rain of light pouring down.

"After a while, this illuminatory effect ceased. The 'jellyfish' then changed into a bright semicircle and began to move off again in the direction of Lake Onega, over which area the horizon now became shrouded in grey clouds. In this shroud there appeared, as it were, a semicircular hole of light, bright red in the centre and white on the edges. According to the testimony of the eyewitnesses, the phenomenon lasted for some ten to twelve minutes.

"The Director of the Petrozavodsk Hydrometeorological Observatory, Yu. Gromov, told your correspondent that the personnel of the meteorological service stations in Karelia had never before seen anything similar to this. As to what had given rise to the phenomenon, that remained an enigma, he said, for no abrupt atmospheric changes had been recorded by the meteorological stations during the preceding twenty-four hours or, indeed, even in the course of the day before that. Mr. Gromov furthermore laid emphasis upon the fact that it is known that no technical experiments of any kind had been taking place in the region during the period in question. But, he said, to attribute it all simply to a mirage was also not feasible, inasmuch as this unwonted phenomenon had been observed by a great many eyewitnesses, whose testimonies were in many cases identical, and, although the observation of an unwonted phenomenon did not, he said, in itself constitute material proof of anything, nevertheless these reports had come in to him from various places throughout the town."

* * * * *

"Note from the Editorial Board of *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya:*

"The TASS News Agency's representative in Leningrad has contacted V. Krata, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and Director of the Academy's principal astronomical observatory, and asked him for his views regarding this affair.

"The astronomer's reply is as follows:

" 'A bright fiery ball travelling rapidly through the sky from south to north across the Leningrad Oblast' and Karelia in the early morning hours of September 20 was also seen by astronomers at the Pulkovo Observatory. It is not yet possible to explain with complete certainty the precise origin of the phenomenon, as the reports from observers and eyewitnesses are still coming in to us and are being analyzed.' "

[*After this article was typeset we were delighted to receive a cutting from Pravda from a reader in Kharkov*—EDITOR]

References and comments

1. See the "World Round-up" column in FSR Vol.23, No.3.
2. Most folk probably know what a jellyfish looks like. It has received the name *medusa* in several languages, including Russian, because its streaming tentacles on the underside recall the writhing snakes on the head of the most famous of the three Gorgons. The ordinary, or common jellyfish (*Aurelia flavidula*), has not quite such long filaments and tentacles. There is another species, *Dactylometra quinquecirrha,* the body of which is round, just like the ordinary jellyfish (and also like many UFOs) and, as its Latin name indicates, it has even longer streaming tendrils. A third species, *Physalia Arethusa,* is the famous "Portuguese man-of-war," and its streaming filaments are the longest of all. These last-named two species would seem to resemble very much what eyewitnesses have attempted to describe after seeing the type of UFO that is reported to pour down streams or lines of golden light.
3. In Greek mythology there were three horrific monsters known as *Gorgons.* Hesiod names them as Euryale, Stheino, and Medusa, the last-named being the most awful to behold. Her locks of hair consisted of writhing snakes, and all who contemplated her were turned to stone. Perseus, son of Zeus and Danae, is famous for his rescue of Andromeda from the barren rock to which she was chained, and also for his act of public service in cutting off the head of the Medusa.
4. This reference to *pulsed* beams of light must also be carefully noted. Talk of "pulsed bursts of light" crops up frequently in our Ufological literature. Where would the good Party-members of Petrozavodsk have heard of such heretical ideas?

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE RELIGIOUS KIND

John A. Keel

"The real story in town was 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind', which is eyeing a smashing $165,000 [£90,000] or near in its first Ziegfeld week based on $121,923 in five days. That should claim the house record of $151,059 rung up by Col's [Columbia Pictures] 'Tommy' in 1975. 'Encounters' plays longer than 'Tommy' resulting in fewer shows, but is priced at $4.50 or 50c more than 'Tommy'.

"Topping the newcomer parade [in Los Angeles] is 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' shaping to a great $115,000 at the Cinerama Dome..."

—*Variety*, Nov. 23, 1977

STOP PRESS

Mr. Keel's very welcome article was received in December after the CEIII movie had made its debut in New York and Los Angeles. Coming as it did after our Editorial had already been set, it was decided to hold over Dr. Buhler's article *Attempted Abduction at Vila Velha* to make way for it, and it now complements our observations on pages 1 and 2.

EDITOR

THE long, suspenseful wait has ended. A major flying saucer movie has finally arrived and it promises to create a new climate for the UFO subject. Despite some rather harsh reviews by the more knowledgeable film critics who resent the weak script and poor characterizations, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* has struck a responsive chord in America's young people and they are forming long lines at the box office in New York and Los Angeles, the first cities to present the film.

When Columbia Pictures spent a staggering $14,000,000 to make the movie they were gambling on the talents of a 29-year old named Steven Spielberg who had written and produced *Jaws,* a big money-maker about a man-eating shark. Would UFOs have the same universal appeal as a hungry fish? The cynics thought not. The sophisticated film critics left preview screenings holding their collective noses. They labelled the film "poor science fiction" and compared it with the cheap flying saucer movies of the 1950s. It lacked, they said, the wit and "fun" of *Star Wars,* a science-fantasy that has earned millions this year. They all ignored (or were unaware of) one very important fact: *Close Encounters* is the climax of thirty years of wonder, speculation and propaganda. An entire generation has grown up hearing about, and believing in, extraterrestrial visitants, and they are ready for a film shorn of the usual science fiction trappings ... one that deals with UFO sightings realistically and concentrates on how the UFO experience affects the witnesses.

To this new generation *Close Encounters* is more than just a trip to the movies. It is a religious-like experience. It is confirmation of personal beliefs. Thanks to a very noisy sound track and some truly spectacular special effects, the film engulfs the mind, transcends all logic, and offers something very close to the Second Coming. Audiences, most of whom are under thirty, leave the theatre silent, a glazed look in their eyes. They have been stunned ... as stunned as any real-life UFO percipient ... because they have been cleverly manipulated by the film-maker's art.

Columbia Pictures is spending millions advertising and promoting *Close Encounters* so I won't try to summarize the whole film here. It begins with a sand storm, the wind howling so loudly that the audience is obliged to lean forward and strain to hear what the actors are saying. Thus they are made tense from the very opening scene ... an old trick devised by Alfred Hitchcock many years ago.

The first distinguishable words are: "Are we the first?".

The sound track is unrelenting. Even domestic scenes are staged in near hysteria amidst blaring television sets, ringing phones, screaming arguments. At some points you want to cover your ears and cringe in your seat, just as Spielberg intended.

When the saucers appear the special effects are so well done you almost feel as if you are witnessing a real UFO event instead of just celluloid make-believe. And when a gigantic "mother-ship" finally descends in the climactic scenes the effect is awesome. (We also receive a brief, less than awesome, glimpse of Dr. J. Allen Hynek towards the end of the picture.) Screeching electronic music and high pitched blasts of bleeping and wailing contribute to the assault on your nerves. The film literally wears you out.

By leaving almost every question unanswered (Spielberg never even approaches the question "Where are they from?"), and by steadfastly refusing to fill in the many holes in the slipshod script, the audience leaves with a thousand questions in their minds. Perhaps in the hands of a lesser talent this picture would have been an unmitigated disaster and there would have been riots at the box office as the victims demanded their $4.50 back. Instead, they leave strangely satisfied. Spielberg has been honest. He has not attempted to provide an answer. He hasn't even spelled out all the questions. His main goal is to awe, to attack the senses, to provide

an experience rather than a mere entertainment. He succeeds.

The picture must gross an unbelievable $45,000,000 before Columbia Pictures breaks even. Judging from the success of its first few days, we can estimate that it will probably finally earn around $200,000,000 worldwide. (*Jaws* has thus far earned $185,000,000.) In these days of economic blight such figures are mind boggling. The New York press and trade journals like *Variety*, the weekly "bible" of show business, have been preoccupied with the numbers involved. The *Wall Street Journal* was enchanted to note that Columbia's stock rose from 7 early in the year to nearly 20 after the film was released. In fact, Wall Street speculators made over $100,000,000 juggling Columbia's stock before the picture even opened. In America "big bucks" (big money) automatically brings respect. Ironically, money is finally making flying saucers respectable. The news media are no longer joking about UFOs.

There were many snickers when Columbia Pictures announced that it would demand an advance payment of $150,000 from any theatre owner who wanted to show *Close Encounters*. This was an unheard of "guarantee" and it seemed unlikely that many theatres would be willing to gamble such a sum against possible earnings. But with the picture now making over a quarter million dollars per week playing in only two theatres, the theatre owners are enthusiastically paying in advance.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek acted as special adviser to the film and, of course, the title was lifted from his book *The UFO Experience*. In the past, Hollywood has paid as much as $200,000 just for a title and then written a film to match it (e.g. *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Sex*, *The Naked City*, etc.). Hynek has also actively helped to promote the film by appearing on radio and television, having been promised widespread publicity for his UFO Center in Illinois. This kind of involvement for a movie with this kind of budget would normally have called for a minimum payment of $250,000. The New York press rumoured that he was being paid $20,000. Actually he has received only $1,700 from the producers. When you realize the time and effort he has put into the project no-one can accuse him of profiteering. Instead, he has been exploited by the movie-makers.

There are already indications that *Close Encounters* will outgross every other movie ever made. The audience will be young (in the United States the general movie audience is between 19 and 30), and they will understand all the hidden ramifications of the film; ramifications which might elude older, more sceptical people. It is already on its way to becoming a "cult film," like *2001* which appeared a decade ago and was embraced by the youth audience. People who have seen UFOs, and they now number in the millions, will certainly stand in line to see it. People who have *never* seen a UFO but always wanted to – and they also number in the many millions – will also line up at the box offices. The picture will make UFOs totally real to millions all over the world. Ufology will never be the same again.

The next big UFO wave will probably attain greater notice than any previous one ... all because of this movie. Already the normally staid anti-UFO New York press is giving space to local UFO sightings. The New York *Daily News*, the largest American newspaper, gave front page coverage to some recent sightings on Staten Island, under the heading: "UFOs: Close Encounters of the Local Kind" (November 27, 1977). Sightings are beginning to increase in the United States, following the mini-waves in northern Europe and elsewhere in 1977. You don't need a crystal ball to predict a new American wave in the months ahead. *Close Encounters* will naturally ride the crest of the wave.

At least six other films with UFO themes are completed, or nearing completion, and will soon be released to ride the tail of *Close Encounters'* success. A number of television series are also being readied, notably an effort by Jack Webb of *Dragnet* fame, reportedly based upon cases from the files of Project Blue Book. So 1978 will be the year of the flying saucers.

Those of us who have been concerned about the true nature and intent of UFOs must regard this popularization and exploitation of the UFO lore with some alarm. Hollywood has chosen only a small part of the whole problem for the glamour treatment and *Close Encounters* assures its audiences that the Ufonauts are really friendly, super-intelligent creatures sympathetic to the human condition. We know this has seldom been the case in real-life UFO encounters. The film is a propaganda masterpiece, not only in getting the public to accept UFOs, but leading them to accept the benevolence of the Ufonauts. (In the closing sequence the spindly Ufonaut twists his almost featureless face into what passes for a smile ... and the effect is electric. Audiences respond to it as if they are receiving godly grace.)

The abject horror of those who have experienced close encounters and their agonizing suffering afterwards, are whitewashed by this film. People leaving the theatre find themselves gazing at the sky wistfully, hoping it will happen to them, convinced that the advent of the flying saucers is somehow a religious event ... mankind meeting the gods. Future percipients will undoubtedly colour their experiences unconsciously to match the film.

For years the truest believers amongst us have waited patiently for some spectacular UFO event, like a landing on the Whie House lawn. Though frequently predicted, the event has never occurred. Now Hollywood has done it by creating the landing for us and by presenting it to the entire world, dressed up in impressive cinematic trickery. Future ufology will be divided into two parts: BCEIII (Before "Close Encounters") and ACEIII (After "Close Encounters"). It will be very interesting to see what strange new games the UFOs play in the post-Close Encounters era.

BIZARRE 1954 CAR CRASH

Will hypnosis help to solve the mystery of alleged UFO involvement?

Margaret and Geoffrey Westwood

Our contributors are respectively Secretary and committeeman of UFOSIS (Unidentified Flying Objects Studies Information Service) which is active in and around Birmingham. Chairman of the group is Philip Rogers who was one of the founders of UFOIN, for whom this report has been prepared.

THIS is an account of an incident, the report of which has puzzled us for some time. We have met, and know the witness, Commander H.R. Penrose. We also know his story well; indeed in September 1977 he gave us a signed statement about the incident which, although it occurred in 1954, is still clear to him in most respects. A photocopy of the report has been passed to *Flying Saucer Review*.

As to the incident being clear in the witness's mind "in most respects" we must add that we have known for some time that there are obvious gaps in the commander's story. Because of this it has been our wish to arrange for him to be questioned under hypnosis. Hopefully we might then be able to fill out those gaps. Unfortunately we began to make enquiries about this before the formation (in March 1977) of UFOIN, and the subsequent discovery that FSR would be able to help us arrange for sessions of hypnotic regression. Consequently, after we had made tentative enquiries elsewhere the matter was left in the hands of an American para-psychologist, Dr. Hans Holzer, and we gather that Cdr. Penrose's interrogation may possibly become part of a film.

Here, for the record, are the details of the incidnet as we know them. They seem to begin with a newspaper account in the *Derby Evening Telegraph* of Friday May 14, 1954, of a somewhat bizarre car crash:—

"Mr. Horatio Penrose of 17 Lonsdale Road, Birmingham, escaped with concussion and minor cuts and bruises when his car crashed through the iron railings of the Hilton Gravel Works on the main Derby-Burton road, near Burmaston, just before midnight last night.

"The windscreen was shattered, one door was ripped away, and the main body of the car was also damaged.

"Mr. Penrose was found by a passing motorist trapped in the car with only minor injuries. He was taken by ambulance to Derbyshire Royal Infirmary. His wife travelled from Birmingham to see him today.

"There was no one at Hilton Gravel Works when the accident occurred, and the gates – specially widened for heavy lorries – stood open. If the car had left the road a few seconds earlier it would have gone through the open gates without encountering any obstacle."*

Cdr. Penrose put things in a somewhat different light in his statement. We read of a build-up of relevant events over the two days leading to the

Detail from a reproduction of newspaper photograph of the wrecked car

crash; we learn, in fact, why he was where he was when things "turned sour" for him.

On Wednesday May 12, 1954, at approximately 8 o'clock in the evening, the Commander visited a public house in Derbyshire where he met a man with whom he got into conversation about his motorcar, a black Vauxhall *Wyvern* saloon which was about a year old. The man said he would like to buy it and made a very reasonable offer. Cdr. Penrose was undecided, however, and said he would think the thing over before meeting him in the same public house the following evening.

Meeting as arranged next evening, he told his acquaintance that he was still undecided, whereupon he was invited to the man's house for tea. When they got there they found a sit-down meal prepared for them by the man's wife. Cdr. Penrose remembers thinking they were an ordinary English couple, although a little smaller than average. After chatting awhile he told his hosts that he had decided against selling the car, and he then took his leave at about 10.30 p.m.

His journey home took him along the main Derby-Burton road, in the direction of Birmingham. Sudden-

* We are greatly indebted to the Area Librarian, Derby Central Library, for the kind assistance given in locating this news item in the archives.

ly, he said, a bright light appeared, heading towards him. He describes what followed:—

"As it reached my position I experienced what seemed to be a crash and I was thrown forward against the windscreen. Then the car seemed to be lifted from the ground and I was moving through the air with a bright light above me. The next thing I remember was when I recovered consciousness in the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary where I had had stitches in a cut in my forehead."

The commander went on: "I remembered a strange occurrence which must have taken place immediately after my crash. At that moment the car was perched on some iron railings, and I recollect being lifted from it by a man in a one-piece suit. He seemed to lift me effortlessly into an entrance on the underside of a large round vehicle which was hovering above us and giving out a bright light."

Cdr. Penrose says he was taken into a room which had controls in it, and other, similarly dressed "men" (my quotation marks —MCW) were operating these. There were male and female beings — distinguishable by their shapes — who had similar short hair styles, and whose facial expressions "did not appear unusual."

The witness says they asked questions about his naval experiences and his work with radar, while he countered with questions about their vehicle and its associated engineering. He also suggests that the method of communication between them was of a "telepathic nature," and adds that when he "...attempted some hypnotic regression, to which [*sic*] they seemed to become very confused" a woman injected some green fluid into his arm after which he remembered no more.

When questioned by police officers after the accident Cdr. Penrose says he was aware that a passing RAC driver had found him concussed, sitting in the driving seat of his car, perched on railings by the entrance of the Hilton Gravel Works.

After his discharge from hospital, and puzzled by the event, he returned to the scene of the accident hoping to trace witnesses. His only success in this respect was to find a railway signalman who said he'd seen a car, with an extremely bright light above it, go past his signal box, and at about the same level.

* * * * *

Was this event a teleportation which either misfired, or perhaps succeeded, with only partial mental recall for the victim as to things that happened to him?

Following a discussion with the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* Commander Penrose was interviewed again during November 1977. This time Phil Rogers was present, and one or two points were cleared up.

It should be stated at this stage that we first met the commander in July 1976 when, having heard of our organisation (UFOSIS), he approached us and expressed an interest in UFOs. It was not until our third meeting some weeks later that he told us about his 1954 experience, and even then he gave us only bare details. We assume that his reason for contacting us was because he felt in 1976 that the "climate" regarding UFOs — both in public interest and press reporting, and not to mention serious researchers — had improved. He told us recently that the never sought publicity for, apart from the fact that it would have left him open to ridicule, he felt he could also have lost his job. By July 1976, however, he was no longer employed by the firm in question.

We also learned that he was kept in hospital for "some months" following the incident, his injuries being cuts on the top of his head and about the face. He also suffered some loss of memory. After leaving the hospital he took one of the nurses out socially as a gesture of thanks for looking after him. He discovered from her that a senior police officer had attempted to interview him while he was in hospital, but was refused permission to do so by the doctors.

It seemed too that the nurse and other members of the staff were puzzled by the description of the bright lights and by what was said to have happened to him at the time of the incident. He learned too that the police interest arose from the abnormally large amount of blood in the vehicle. This, it seems, was far more than could have been expected from the type of injuries sustained by Commander Penrose, and it was thought that another person may have been in the car. The commander assures us, and he is emphatic, that he was alone at the time.

We have spoken to Cdr. Penrose* on several occassions during the past twelve months, and at no time has he contradicted himself, or altered his story in any way.

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CE II AT THAXTED – VEHICLE INTERFERENCE REPORTED

Andrew Collins

Our contributor is an independent researcher who works on behalf of UFOIN (UFO Investigators Network) in South East England. This report was completed on August 9, 1977.

THIS case came to light when I received a telephone call from Police H.Q. at Chelmsford, Essex, at 05.50 hrs. on Wedesday August 3, 1977. It was stated that a Mr. Stevens had walked into the H.Q. at about 04.00 claiming that he had been witness to the passage of two objects earlier that morning over Thaxted, a small village in the north of Essex, and that he had suffered problems with the car he was driving immediately after the encounter. I contacted the witness the same day and arranged an interview with him that evening.

From the lay-by: looking over to Thaxted

The incident

Mr. Mike Stevens, a 24-year-old musician and postman, with a BA in Russian, lives at 63 Fifth Avenue, Chelmsford. On the morning concerned, he had just finished a recording session with his group at Cambridge, and was on his way home, travelling as usual on the A130 road which takes him directly from Cambridge to Chelmsford through the open Essex countryside. As Mike does not possess a car, he usually rents one from the Chelmsford firm Tricentral, which has premises in Rainsford Road. On this occasion he hired a three-month-old Vauxhall Chevette-E, a two door, hatch-back model, registration number TAH 894R, which he had collected from the garage the evening before.

Mike travelled his journey as usual without any trouble until about 03.30 hrs. (this he had estimated from the time he had left the recording studio). He had then just passed through the small village of Thaxted. Beyond the last of the village farms and houses there are several 'S' bends, and it was as he was turning a right-hand bend over a brow of a hill, that he first noticed an odd glow. He said that as he made the turn he caught a glimpse of a reddy-orange or 'peach'-coloured glow through an opening in some bushes to the right hand side of the road; this light seemed quite close by.

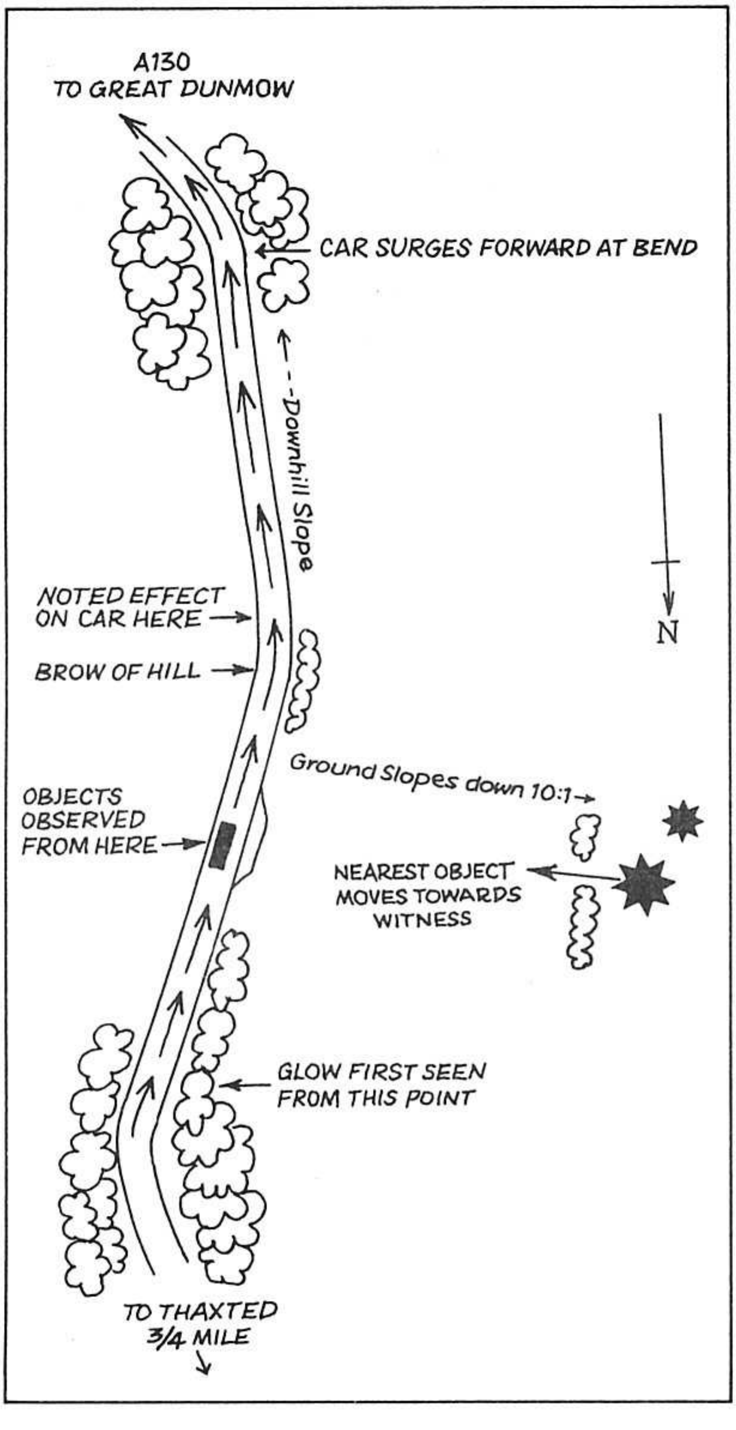
Alerted by this, but thinking nevertheless that it was perhaps a light from a building, he carried on along the road looking for another break in the thick bushes. After 100 yards he came to a gap and again the glow could be seen, but this time he was aware that there were two separate glows, and much more detail could be discerned. Realising that they were unusual, he pulled the car over to the left-hand side of the road and studied the lights intently. In fact what he could see were two orangey-red, stationary objects, about 300-400 yards away from him, at an estimated altitude of 50 ft. from the ground. They were hovering above and beyond a small clump of trees, and were over open fields that sloped away from the road, thus making them almost parallel with the horizon. The one on the left-hand side seemed to be farther away than the other, and was described as just a very diffuse oval-shaped light. The one to the right, being nearer, could be more clearly discerned. This object consisted of a circular centre in which the light emitted from it was described as concentrated; on each side of the circular centre was a diffuse glow, the left hand side being shaped like the end of a Christmas cracker, and the right-hand side tapering to a point. Between the diffuse glows and the circular light there was a definite division, as though the sections were not attached. Both objects seemed to cast a great amount of light skyward, although the witness could not remember them casting any towards the ground.

Mike says his first reaction as he pulled the car to the side of the road, was that the lights were low flying aircraft, but when he had stopped, he realised they could not be, for not only were they stationary, but also they were the wrong colour for aircraft lights, and just did not look right. He continued to watch them through the open car window, leaving the car out of gear and engine ticking over. Then, after watching them with puzzlement for a time, he was aware of a sudden increase in brightness from the left-hand object. This was only momentarily, though, and it soon returned to its original degree of brightness. Next the right hand object appeared to move upwards and when doing so increased the deepness of its colour, before resuming its original position. At this point Mike was still only

curious as to what the things were, thinking now that they could be giant lights on tops of poles. Within a couple of seconds of the right-hand object's moving slightly, it started — as the witness put it — to glide towards him at a slow pace, and as it did so appeared to be travelling in an upward arc of a few degrees. Having the car headlamps on full and realising he was probably the only thing of interest for miles, he was certain that the object was moving towards him, and naturally began to get a bit worried and decided to go.

He then looked away from the objects (he had been watching them at an angle of 45° from the car) and selected first gear. He then released the clutch and pressed the accelerator, moving off on a slight incline, and changed up to second and third gears, by which time he was on the brow of the hill. He then changed into fourth gear and continued over the brow and down the other side. Up to then no effects on the car had been noted at all, but as he was on his way down the hill in fourth gear, he realised that he had his foot on the accelerator right down to the floor, but was only reaching a speed of 35 mph. Although he could only reach this low speed, the car appeared to be running quite normally. This strange effect lasted for perhaps 400 yards, when suddenly the car 'surged' forward in full power rising quickly above 50 mph. The sudden surge was unexpected, and the witness had to jam on his brakes to stop the car from overshooting the left-hand bend he was approaching. After this he carried on quickly to Chelmsford with the car acting normally.

When he reached Chelmsford, Mike went straight to the Police H.Q. at New Street to report what had



From the layby: View had by Mr. Stevens when he saw the two objects

happened. The Police radioed a patrol car in that area to go to the scene of the encounter to see if anything could be seen, but when the patrol reached the spot no trace of the objects could be seen. The Police completed a report and notified the Ministry of Defence, the Civil Aviation Authority, and finally myself. The car was returned to Tricentral after Mr. Stevens had given his statement to the Police.

The whole encounter from when the 'glow' was first seen to when the car returned to normal had lasted for a total of 1½ minutes, and had been in complete silence — other than the noise of the car's engine. The car had performed perfectly before the incident, which was to be expected as it was only three months old.

Follow-up investigations

On Saturday, August 6, I visited the site of the alleged incident with Barry and Christopher King. The place is approximately ¾-mile out of Thaxted village on the A130 road towards Great Dunmow. To the right of the road, where the objects are said to have been, there are several large fields, all with vegetable crops. These fields slope down in a 10 in 1 decline to a valley approximately two miles away. There are scattered trees between most fields, and the clump of trees that the objects appeared to be

over were about 30ft. high, so the estimated height of the objects at 50ft. was reasonable. There are also scattered houses in the valley, although none appear to be too close to the position where the objects were stationary. To the extreme right one can see some of the Thaxted houses and buildings. Beyond the sloping fields there is a mostly wooded area that does not appear to be built up. During the night several artificial lights can be seen, but none of these resembled the objects seen by Mike Stevens. To the left of the A130 road is a bank of earth, and beyond this, although they cannot be seen, there are more fields.

We confirmed the position of the bends in the road, and the distances between them, and all seem to be as the witness described them. No trace at all of the incident could be found.

Checking with the authorities proved fruitless. Stanstead airport stated there were no aircraft movements at all between 03.04 and 06.00 on that morning. The RAF base as Wethersfield confirmed no military movements in that area. Neither had they had any sightings reported to them. Eastern Radar, the military radar for the whole of East Anglia did not log any unusual traces on radar around that time. The Ministry of Defence confirmed that they had been notified of the sighting, although they had received no other reports for that day.

The London Weather Centre reported no atmospherical abnormalities. The conditions at 03.22 local time reported from Stansted Airport are as follows:

1/8 of cloud at 12,000 ft. and 4/8 at 25,000 ft.

The wind was calm. The visibility 2400m.

The temperature was 13½°C., and the humidity was 91%.

The car

A trip was made by Barry King and myself to Tricentral, the rental firm, on Friday August 5th. A complete vehicle examination was made including a road test. For a full analysis of the examination please see report prepared by Barry King.

During the examination, checks were made on the vehicle to see what readings were given when placing a compass on various parts of the outside and inside. These were then compared with that of the Chevette's sister car TAH 893R. Both cars are mechanically and electrically identical, although the readings noted differed quite considerably. Both cars were positioned in exactly the same position and direction when the readings were being taken. The following readings are the result of that test:

	TAH 893R – Control Car	TAH 894R – Car under examination
Left wing	290°	108°
Right wing	130°	240°
Bonnet	350°	257°
Roof, left	130°	016°
Roof, right	118°	345°
Rear door	020°	132°
Front seat	118°	130°
Back seat	350°	050°
All readings were taken with north at 000°		

As can be seen, even allowing for the 20% difference between one car and another, the readings differ considerably. Especially at the front of the vehicle around the engine.

The witness

I found Mr. Stevens to be a very well spoken, sincere person, who conveyed the details of his encounter in a concise and calm way. I believe that the details given are precise and not elaborated in any way. Mr. Stevens is at present working as a postman, although he is a musician and has a degree in Russian. He has never seen anything that he could not explain before, and has never had any psychic experiences. Although he was very shaken up at the time of the encounter, he now wishes 'in the light of day' that he had waited around to see the object at closer range. He now accepts that he has had a UFO experience and is willing to talk freely about it, although he wishes not to have any publicity in local newspapers, which is quite understandable.

Conclusions

No explanation is readily available to explain this encounter. The height, the shapes, and the colour, all add to the problem as to what the objects were. I think it is clear that Mr. Stevens *was* subject to a frightening experience in the early hours of August 3, 1977. It is also strange that the time should be 03.30. Of late we have been receiving an increasing number of early morning reports. Could it be that the amount of reports for that time is on the increase, or is it that our newly found liaison with the Police is producing reports we would not normally hear about, reports that otherwise would have been lost in the presumed massive files of the C.A.A? **(For Vehicle Examination, see Back Cover)**

Left: The car involved in the incident, here photographed with Andy Collins, left, and Barry King on the day they examined it

TALKS WITH BETTY HILL: 3–EXPERIMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

*Berthold Eric Schwarz M.D.**

DOCUMENTATION of the things that happen to and around Betty Hill were the subject matter of Parts I and II. Herein I will close the chapter of those events, past and present [to July, 1976] and describe some interesting experiments.

Old Virginia Dungeon

As far as Betty knew, Barney had no past history for psychic phenomena, either for himself or other members of his family. However, Barney recalled an old house in Virginia which had belonged to a family who owned slaves. "When the slaves were freed, because they were all relatives, the owner wanted them to have his property, since he had never married or had children of his own except the black ones running around.

"Downstairs was a hangout – a carryover from the old slave days. It was like a dungeon. There were straps and chains where the runaway slaves had been taken for punishment. The dungeon was supposed to have been haunted and had clanking, moaning, groaning and things like that. I heard Barney refer to it. He never heard the sound himself, but he said they always talked about it on the old farm in Virginia."

The wall came tumbling down

On April 25, 1976, Charles Bowen, editor of *Flying Saucer Review*, was a guest in my (BES) home. We phoned Betty Hill, who reported that she had just come back from California and had gone downstairs to her basement, and found "...the whole wall lying out on the floor. She said: "I couldn't believe it. I was just astonished. There was no reason for it (no water leak, work in the street, extraneous vibrations or noises. The house had been all locked up. To get in, a person would have had to set off the burglar alarm. It didn't go off, as far as I know, but here's the wall. It's sturdy, and had been there for 20 years."

Current events: a letter of May 28, 1976

"I have had many unexplained things happen to me, but these happened when Barney and I were here, or when I was here alone; they have never happened when anyone else was here – until this past week. Just before Hal (pseudonym) arrived, I found under the hood of my car a paint stirrer, with an abstract kind of painting on it, and I placed it under the hood of the car. Then while Jim was here, a clock in my living room, which was not running, starting operating – maybe it does have a loose wire somewhere, I do not know, however, it started and continues to run.

"Another thing, I have found something that looks like beige plastic. I put it in the trash several times and would find it again somewhere in the house. The last time this happened I had my upstairs tenant and friend Deb watch me put it in the trash then, while Jim was here, I slipped off my shoes and when I went to put them back on, I found the plastic thing in my shoe! We were both there all the time, within three feet of my shoes, when this happened.

"Then, a knife from my set of Towle silver disappeared. I have searched everywhere and it cannot be found. I am hoping it will be returned. Also, my car registration disappeared from my purse at one time, and about 10 days later I found it one morning lying on top of my purse. So I am hoping the knife will come back.

"On May 10 Marianne and I got together at my mother's home in Kingston. We went out to a well-known UFO area, and Marianne and I heard beeping sounds, loud and clear; however, the other two in the car could not hear these. We saw some strange lights in the sky and got out of the car, to get a better look. We were standing in the middle of a dirt road, no houses, sort of scary place, when we heard the most unforgettable snarling and growling of an animal. I was shaking, telling them to get in the car (only two doors and I wanted to get in the driver's seat). Marianne was standing there, calm, fascinated, and saying it was only a big foot. She hears them often in back of her home. I think I would move!

"As for mystery helicopters, Lew Wilson (pseudonym), whom I quoted in my report, saw a helicopter come down over a tree in his yard, so low that it was swirling the branches. He told me that helicopters are not easy to handle, but one thing that must be avoided is close contact with a tree. If a chopper comes too close, a down-draft is created and the chopper crashes. This one was not affected in any way, so he is now questioning the origin of it. He has a friend who has 4 ot 5 flying around his home occasionally, at night. Another mystery he told me: a few days before he came to see me a strange woman came into his business – he has a foreign cars franchise – she was small, wearing a long dress and carrying a pink briefcase. She asked directions to another town. She had the most unusual eyes he has ever seen, very large, dark pupils, but it seemed to him that they protruded to such an extent that he wondered if it was possible for her to close her eyes. As a car dealer, he noted the car she was driving – a dark green, 4 door, Dodge Dart, with a dent in the left front fender. He told me that the day he visited

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me he saw this same car parked in front of my house. Later this same car was seen about 40 miles from here, parked, again, in front of a home of an acquaintance of mine; however, Ron also knows this person, but was not aware of it until this past week. Now I have learned that Ron spent his summers at the lake which is close to my mother's home, and which is known as a 'hot spot' of UFO activity; also, the area where he lives. He refused to watch the movie of my book last October because he knew UFOs did not exist. Now he has 7 at a time flying around his home and he has become 'converted.'

"Incidentally, Jim took the paint stirrer and plastic home with him so I am hoping that this is the last time I will see them."

Paranormal tape experiments

Background: At 11.30 p.m., Friday, March 12, 1976, Betty Hill, Marianne Cascio, Georgia and Eddie Burns (pseudonyms), Hugh White, my wife Ardis and I were present with three tape recorders and fresh cassettes. Eddie had a Contact, Betty had a solid state Sony, and I had a Sony Cassette-Corder TC-55.

Prior to beginning our paranormal recording attempt, Georgia and Eddie told us about their prolonged period of allegedly UFO-related poltergeist experiences, including possible materialization, dematerialization, malodorous writing on a picture window, audible, purportedly paranormal taping sessions, bizarre phone harassment, and so on. Because of the terror, emotional complications, synchronistic factors, ouija board instructions, and bizarre spontaneous alleged clowning episodes involving some of the protagonists and UFO tie-ins, the group sought my professional assistance. Later, when the group and I were meeting together, the chief protagonist's telephone[7] was apparently violently disconnected and the police were called. I had been with Georgia, Eddie, and other members of their group of young adults, including the chief protagonist, when strange events took place, but I had been unable to get paranormal tapes. Because Georgia and Eddie were uncomfortably situated in the middle of the holocaust and seriously wondered about the UFO aspects, they were anxious to meet Betty Hill and get her opinion.

Marianne Cascio, who has already been described in this article, had been visited by Betty Hill over a period of several months. Whatever the realities of her claims and subsequent episodes involving, at times, other people and data, to Marianne the experiences were true. She was also apparently part of previously alleged paranormal recording effects. Although I was not present during these sessions, she played a tape that was recorded when she was in a hypnotic trance. The hypnotist's voice came through clear and loud, whereas Marianne's hypnotized voice sounded as though the recorder had gained speed giving her a high-pitched tweety-bird-like sound.

Betty Hill said that she had tried paranormal tapings in the past and had obtained some non-descript but nevertheless recognizable effects. Hugh White had been experimenting with paranormal tapes for close to a year and had been obtaining many effects, including numerous voices for which he had no explanation.

Prior to Georgia's and Eddie's visit to my home, Marianne had been regaling Betty, Ardis and I at the dinner table with some of her experiences. Immediately after Hugh White's arrival from West Nyack, N.Y., the lights in the consulting room (adjacent to the dining room) suddenly flickered out. I discovered that a 20 amp cartridge fuse had blown. There was no ostensible reason for this, such as overloading a circuit, and it was a striking event because of the context of the table talk and Marianne's claims and spontaneous possible parapsychical (?) demonstrations of electrical and electronic effects. For example, on three occasions, earlier in the day, when Ardis had attempted to use the push-buttom 'phone to call Marianne's parents in Agawam, Massachusetts, she was immediately put in touch with the operator, who offered help, rather than having the call go through. This event also happened with Marianne at the National Institute of Rehabilitation Engineering at Pompton Lakes, N.J., when the call was dialled from there to Montclair, N.J. Marianne said this was not an unusual experience for her. Months earlier I had a possibly related peculiar experience which involved a 'phone call from Mrs. Stella Lansing[8] of Massachusetts.

Results: With these background factors then, the group and I attempted a paranormal recording for approximately twenty minutes. During the middle of the recording Marianne got up and changed seats with Betty. Marianne waved her hand several inches above Betty's tape recorder and said that she'd change places. When the tapes were played back, nothing was heard on Eddie's tape; there might have been a distant mumble of hardly audible voices on my tape; but the introduction to the procedure that I had made, and which was clearly heard on Eddie's and my tape, was not heard at the beginning of Betty's tape. She seemed flustered about this and searched her tape looking for it. On playing her tape from beginning to end, she suddenly heard my announcement of who was present, the date, etc., in the *middle* of her tape. It seemed that Marianne had succeeded in transferring the announcement. Since this episode, Marianne has phoned me immediately after another similar episode and put her Uncle Dave on the wire who witnessed the second transposition from the beginning to the middle of the tape.

It is stressed that at no point in the experiment did Marianne, in her hand waving 'image passes' touch the tape recorder, and Betty Hill had a new cassette. Although this experiment is electronically indigestible, facts are facts, and it is not unlikely many odd effects noted in ufology: for example, an automobile motor starting up spontaneously after it had been shut off, due to an alleged close UFO effect, and so on. It can be wondered why the taping transposition happened only between Marianne and Betty.

Discussion and Summary

This brief survey of some possibly previously omitted aspects of Betty Hill's life indicates that there are parallels between her and other people who have had reputed UFO experiences. Betty has had examples of bizarre harassment, many of which are probably in the realm of the here-and-now and explainable, and some of which might cross the border into UFO cat-and-mouse-like games and intriguing domains of psi.

In my sessions with Betty, I learned that she, members of her family, and close friends have been involved in nearly lifelong major psychic phenomena. Perhaps these events have increased since the abduction. It can be conjectured from her reported early-life examples of precognition plus other episodes, which she could not readily remember, that she is an unwitting proscopist. This unique talent possibly ties in with her star-map experience while on board the UFO. For example, it is possible that, because of her likely prophetic ability, Betty received the star map information that was not known, or known incorrectly at the time, but which was later proved by Marjorie Fish to be true. We may ask, did Betty literally receive the information while on board the UFO, as she recalled during post-hypnotic suggestion, or was her experience in some way a projected thought from the occupants, or whatever force that is behind them? Could her experience have been a spectacular example of clairvoyance? It is obvious that her experience does not "prove" (nor does it disprove) an extraterrestrial origin for the information, because, for example, the prophetic elements from Jules Verne's science fiction come to mind; also the recent controversies stemming from Dr. Velikovsky's[9] successful projections; and paragnosts Harold Sherman's and Ingo Swan's[10] precognitive statements that apparently smashed time and space barriers. Since the prophetic theme is related to many UFO contacts, it can be wondered if this information was telepathically transmitted to Betty for reasons that are beyond our understanding at present. The riddle of precognition[11] might have much to offer ufology, just as ufology with its manifold psi manifestations might give clues to the mysteries of parapsychology.

In Betty's abduction case, as in some UFO contactee examples, there is the overall impression that the involved individual is a unique type of person whose talents (e.g., ability to rapidly enter a deep hypnotic trance, dissociative traits, and high quality psi potentialities), latent or otherwise, are necessary for the UFOs or the forces behind them, and that these factors might be vital to the generation of the apparent mind-matter interface experience.

On superficial scrutiny, many of Betty's isolated experiences would appear hard to accept, and perhaps to those who are inexperienced with such data they could conform solely to psychopathology. However, to one who is familiar with this type of data, and who is experienced in studying psychopathology, and who looks at the events in their totality, the problem is more complex. It can be seen how persons who have had UFO encounters like Betty and Barney Hill can as easily develop emotional disturbances as the other way around: viz., pre-existent psychodynamics can colour and in some cases account for part or all of their alleged experience.

It is to Betty Hill's credit that she has a solid ego structure which has enabled her to maintain a healthy outlook and "inlook." Others with a less stable ego structure might have succumbed to the combination of psychopathology, psi, the UFO experience, associated harassment, and in some cases the effects of a self-engendered superstitious "bad luck syndrome." It is a coincidence, if not synchronicity, that among all the psychiatrists in the United States, Betty and Barney Hill, after a few initial attempts elsewhere, chose a physician who was not only skilled in hypnotherapy, but who was familiar with the possibility of thought transference.[12]

Whatever the force that induces such disparate effects above and beyond the close UFO encounter or the awesome abduction experience, these superficially trivial human details may really be the top of the iceberg. They should not be overlooked and could be the heart of the problem.

Notes and References

7. As additional background information, in the course of the group's harassment I also became involved in a prolonged UFO sighting by the chief protagonist and her mother, and during the group's mystery phone calls I logged 87 mostly late-night calls with no one at the other end of the line, between November 13, 1975, and December 3, 1975. Although I have an Answering Service, which reported no- or few-unexplainable calls when I was out of my office, on several occasions the phone would ring immediately when I entered the office from an outside engagement. This was at random intervals. Also, on two occasions my bedside office phone rang when it was supposedly impossible, since it was cut off by a switch in my secretary's office. My wife also witnessed this incident. Mrs. Crane of the Answering Service, who was unaware of what was going on but dutifully logged the calls, once reported: "The phone rang and there was no light on the board. It was funny because I was looking at the board at the time – there are two lights under each doctor's name – and this is the first time this happened in nine years at the exchange. Whoever the party is, he seems to know a lot about electrical equipment – the two lights didn't go on when they should have."
8. For comic relief, I had just finished hanging up on a "mystery call" when I received a call from Stella Lansing in Massachusetts. She was upset because she had just called me on reverse charges, and the operator repeated the correct number, but she got a man who accepted the call and initially sounded like me. When Stella became aware that it was the wrong number, she hung up and got the same oprator again, who said she felt sure she had dialled the correct number and recalled the correct digits ... coincidence, comic relief, or perhaps something else, when considered within this broad context of specifically annotated events. For possibly related data see Creighton, Gordon: "Gobbledygook," FSR, Vol. 18 (No.6): 25-27 (Nov./Dec. 1972); and Schwarz, B.E.: "Saucers, Psi and Psychiatry," MUFON, UFO Symposium Proceedings, Akron, Ohio (June 22, 1974), pp. 88–89.
9. Based on his studies of the world's ancient records, I. Velikovsky in his predictions of what would be found in the space probes of Venus, Mars and the moon was

often correct when experts in astronomy and related sciences were wrong. See de Grazia, Alfred; Juergens, Ralph E; Stecchini, Livio C. (editors): *The Velikovsky Affair: Scientism vs. Science!*, University Books, New Hyde Park, N.Y., 1966, Bowen, Charles (ed.): "The Leopard's Spots," FSR, Vol.14 (No.3): (May/June 1968).

10. Harold Sherman and Ingo Swan, two gifted paragnosts, attempted psychic probes of the distant planet Jupiter on April 27, 1973. Their responses were monitored by Drs. H.E. Puthoff and Russell Targ of the Stanford Research Institute and later compared with feedback material from the Pioneer X space craft. Both paragnosts gave similar responses to each other and to data sent back from Jupiter (approximately December 3, 1973).
Later, Janet Mitchell, a parapsychologist with the American Society for Psychical Research, monitored Swan's out-of-body precognitive (?) observations of the planet Mercury, which were subsequently confirmed by the Mariner X's fly-by. Miss Mitchell wrote about this in the May/June 1975 issue of *Psychic*.
Therefore, it can be supposed that Betty Hill, whatever the nature of her star map experience, could have used her natural paragnostic abilities in analogous ways to Sherman and Swan, and the scholarship and intuition of Velikovsky, or that she possessed considerable latent psychic abilities which were precipitated by her life crisis: i.e., the abduction, and which were projected into the clairvoyant, precognitively perceived star map.

11. Guideposts for investigations into precognition can be found in chair tests by Professor Tenhaeff with the Dutch paragnost Gerard Croiset, and the contributions of Jule Eisenbud. See Tenhaeff, W.H.C.: "Seat Experiments with Gerard Croiset," *Proc.* of the *Parapsychology Institute of the State University of Utrecht,* No. 1:53-65, 1960; and Eisenbud, Jule, in Dean, Stanley R. (ed.): *Psychiatry and Mysticism,* Nelson Hall, Chicago, 1975 (Chapter on "Research and Precognition," pp. 101-110).

12. Although Dr. Simon alluded to the possibility of telepathy as an important factor in explaining some of the events of the Betty and Barney Hill abduction, this theme was not developed. However, Betty Hill recalled, from her conversations with Dr. Simon, his mention of some hypnotic-telepathic experiments with other people. Therefore it would appear that this aspect of his opinion about the abduction was not just wild speculation.

STRANGE OBJECT NEAR CHILDRENS' HOME

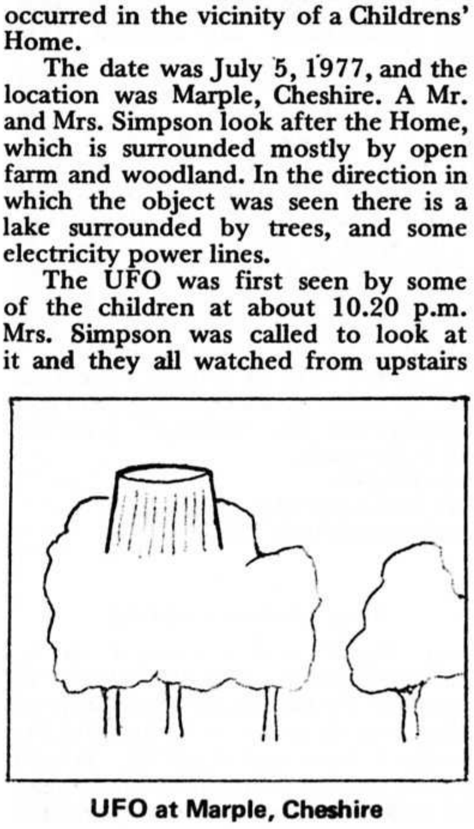
Jenny Randles

This is a NUFON report, specially prepared for UFOIN (*UFO Investigators' Network*)* and for *Flying Saucer Review.*

THE affinity that the UFO phenomenon has for schools and schoolchildren, especially during the 1977 UK wave, has already been noted in FSR. The following report may serve to corroborate this idea as the incident occurred in the vicinity of a Childrens' Home.

The date was July 5, 1977, and the location was Marple, Cheshire. A Mr. and Mrs. Simpson look after the Home, which is surrounded mostly by open farm and woodland. In the direction in which the object was seen there is a lake surrounded by trees, and some electricity power lines.

The UFO was first seen by some of the children at about 10.20 p.m. Mrs. Simpson was called to look at it and they all watched from upstairs as a yellowy object hovered just at the top of the tree line, seemingly over the lake. It seemed to alter shape on a number of occasions from that of a cigar to that of the edge of a saucer. The sides seemed to shimmer or tremble. From the underside came beams of light which slanted outwards at an angle as if illuminating the area underneath.



UFO at Marple, Cheshire

At 10.40 p.m. Mr. Simpson returned home and he observed the phenomenon with his younger brother and the previous witness. It remained stationary for some twenty more minutes.

The object was at least three times as bright as the brightest star in the sky and had a definite size to it. The moon was visible in roughly the same arc of sky, and was low down and almost full. It was possible, however to affirm absolutely that this was not the cause of the sighting owing to later events.

After watching it with the naked eye for some while Mr. Simpson obtained some binoculars and viewed it through these. He saw an elongated silver shape with what seemed to be lumps on its side. The object then slowly moved across to the south east and stopped in a clearing between the trees. Here it seemed larger and possibly closer. It then dulled through orange to red and eventually just disappeared from view. A few moments later it reappeared in the same position where first seen, and back in its original shape and colour. After a few minutes it began to descend below the trees and was lost to view. Because of their responsibility at the Home the witnesses could not go to the lake to see what was happening.

At 12.10 a.m. Mrs. Simpson finally contacted me at the local UFO investigation group (I had only just returned home after being out with a friend). She had obtained my number from the local radio. After she had quickly related the story, I asked her to make ready a camera and take a long duration exposure if the object reappeared. I then went to a high vantage point and scanned the area in question (Marple is roughly 1¼ miles distant). I was able to ascertain that the Moon was in a different position and that there were no bright stars in the vicinity. Although the night was clear, and I stayed out for some minutes, nothing was seen by myself.

At 12.25 a.m. the object was reported to have returned, but no photographs were taken as it was only visible for a few seconds, moving very fast in the same vicinity. As it disappeared, an aircraft came by overhead, clearly audible. The witnesses

* UFOIN address: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester, M30 6NJ. Tel: 061 775 4749.

stayed up until 3 a.m. but there was no further sign of the phenomenon, although the night remained clear.

The mystery was not over, however, for some days afterwards it was discovered that another event had occurred on the same night (the only other one on file with NUFON) and this had occurred in Irlam (which is the town in which I live, though as previously explained, I was out in Manchester that night).

The Irlam witnesses were two teenage boys who, at a time around 10.00 p.m., claim that they were looking south eastwards (which is in the direction of Marple) when they saw a dark cigar-shaped object hovering over the Manchester Ship Canal. The area to the east of Irlam is mostly taken up with open land, the canal and a large oil refinery, so there is a wide area of view from this vantage point.

The object was producing a beam of light from one end, and this was sweeping backwards and forwards in a slow arc. The object eventually moved out of sight slowly following the course of the canal to the south. No other witnesses of this incident have been found, although the boys stated that the object was over a large housing estate in Flixton.

It seems quite possible that these two experiences are inter-related, as neither of them received any publicity whatsoever, and reports of cigar-shaped objects emitting beams of light are not all that common. Their significance seems to be somewhat obscure, however, because there appears to be some 'selectivity' of the witnesses. Had this been a purely objective phenomenon one would have anticipated many more witnesses than those discovered.

Help on this investigation was forthcoming from Ron Sargeant and Arthur Tomlinson for MUFORA and DIGAP. It is hoped to publish a full report on the Irlam incident in the next issue of FSR.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Random bending

[*Although not directly ufological, we felt that readers would be interested in the following extract from a letter dated September 14 which we received from* **Dr. Ivor Grattan-Guinness** *who is lecturing at Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia for a few months*].

"...A very curious thing happened on Friday. My friend in the Mathematics department here took me along to a meeting of people from several departments of the university with the local spoonbender, Ori Suoray. Various of us gave him keys and metal. He bent one key quite a bit after much effort, but was on the whole fairly unsuccessful. He's been doing it all for about two years and is getting bored with it ('so I can bend keys; so what?') I went with him alone into another room and we chatted for about 20 minutes while he tried on a key I gave him out of the desk in my room, and some other things. He may have bent that key very slightly, but said that it was the type of small key with which he is usually unsuccessful anyway; and he certainly did nothing to two other keys from the desk which I kept in my possession as controls. But I have great respect for spoonbenders, and left my keyring and watch in the glove compartment of my friend's car before we crossed over the building for the meeting with Ori. Afterwards we came back to the car and I took my watch and keys out of the glove compartment. The watch was still going; but one of the keys was bent by at least 5°! Moreover, it was the 4th of the set for my desk, the one that I use (or used to use). Like the other three, it was completely flat (and thus usable); and of the type that Ori said he didn't like working with.

"This case seems to me to be particularly interesting. I am sure that I did not tell Ori that I had left my key or my watch in my friend's car, so that the effect must have taken place through some thought transference between him and myself – in other words, that is the kind of phenomenon that we are investigating. I know that people think this anyway, but this is a case when other possibilities seem definitely to be excluded."

I.G-G.

Pro-Am contradistinctions

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Replying to A. Cramwinckel's kind letter in FSR Vol. 22/6 regarding my essay "In Defence of Amateurs" (FSR, Vol. 22/2) in my country the contradistinctions, scientist – non-scientist and amateur – professional are used just as they are in the Netherlands. They apply universally, logically.

However, the scientist – non-scientist contradistinction has no place in any discussion of ufology. All who research UFOs must preserve a hard-headed, objective attitude toward the data, in the best tradition of scientific method. Non-scientists have never collected, preserved or correlated any worthwhile UFO material.

The essay was written originally for the Mufon UFO Journal, an American publication, and so was not intended strictly for an overseas readership. However, in France and presumably in Britain too, as well as in the United States the contradistinction scientist – amateur is in common usage. Thus, there are professional and amateur astronomers, geologists, archaeologists, *ad infinitum*. Strangely, I have never come across an "amateur" engineer, however. Perhaps this explains why A. Cramwinckel, being an engineer himself, experiences confusion at my use of words.

I would never have been prompted to write the essay at all, had it not been for the fact that certain French and American scientists *themselves* have written and spoken rather derisively of the "UFO amateurs" who manned the bastions against media ridicule and government secrecy since the beginning of the modern UFO period.

In the past year or so, I have noted that the words "UFO amateur" are used less frequently; and when they *are* used, it is with a certain softness and respect which was not discernible before. This is all I ever wished for.

In spite of national differences in semantical usage, it is indeed a credit to the essential sameness of human thought that A. Cramwinckel and myself come to the same conclusion – i.e., in the field of ufology, scientists and all other qualified researchers and investigators are amateurs together.

All best regards,

Ann Druffel

257 Sycamore Glen, Pasadena,
California 91105, U.S.A.

More on time-travelling

Dear Sir,—I was interested in S. Suddell's letter (Vol.23, No.1) in reference to the article "Ufonauts as Time Travellers" by S. Priest (Vol.21, No.6). I have not read Mr. Priest's article, having only recently retaken the FSR. However, may I be permitted

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to say a few words on this interesting subject. I am not sure if Mr. Priest is aware that a consequence of Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity is the Time Dilation Effect. As a spaceship and its crew approached the speed of light all physical processes and time aboard the ship would slow down, whereas outside the ship, e.g., the Earth, all physical processes and time would continue at their usual rate. The crew would not be aware of this retardation as their metabolism is also effected.

This means that space travellers moving at high relativistic velocity would find on return to Earth that hundreds or thousands of years, or more, had passed. But to them it would seem only days, weeks. Thus, this would be time travel into the future. I have read of a theory (not the mathematics of it) which says that if it was possible to transform matter completely into energy, so that a space-time ship could attain 72% speed of light, it would be theoretically possible to travel into the past or future. Cases where UFOs materialise and dematerialise, or disappear like a T.V. picture, may be exhibiting a form of relativistic phenomenon. They could come from any region of Earth's past or future, and be of alien or human origin.

By being observed, or by actual physical intervention, "they *will change past or fu*ture events due to the cause and effect relationship. This whole business becomes very complex as I am sure all readers will appreciate.

Yours sincerely,
Sidney G. Brighton
36 St. Hughs Green, Gorleston-on-Sea,
Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk.
August 5, 1977.

An infinitely all-embracing view?

Dear Editor:Here are my reflections on the UFO phenomenon:

Space is infinitely multidimensional, time is infinitely multidirectional, and the flow rate of time is infinitely variable. The UFO and paranormal phenomena are linked to the infinitely complex structure of the multispatiotemporal universe.

Yours sincerely,
Julian H. Kaneko,
9, Crêts de Champel,
CH-1206 Geneva, Switzerland.
September 29, 1977.

The Villa Santina Case

Dear Sir,—I am aged 51 and have long been fascinated by the still unsolved mystery of the flying saucers, the reality of which I accept as more than merely possible. As my thirteen-year-old daughter is also interested, I recently bought for her here in London (where I have lived for the past eleven years) a copy of *The Humanoids,* in which, to my great astonishment, I read the account (p. 187) of the experience of Professor R.L. Johannis at Villa Santina, Italy. I must emphasise that I know nothing about him and have read none of his science fiction books which you mention.

The fact is that I was myself born in Udine. Re-reading the story more carefully, I was even more amazed to see that the date was August 1947!

In that month I was living at Caporiacco, in the municipality of Colloredo di Montalbano. I don't recall the precise date, but it was certainly in August, and certainly before August 15. I feel pretty sure it was August 12. With my mother and a friend I had been to the cinema at Fagnagna to see Vivien Leigh in the film of Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra.* Cars were a luxury in those days, and we had to walk to and from Fagagna (about 4½ kilometres each way).

We were returning home at about 11.00 p.m. It was a beautiful, warm night, and the sky was full of stars. Suddenly, from behind us there came a vivid yellowish-orange light and what seemed a ball of fire shot over our heads at a terrific speed and carried on north towards the mountains ahead of us, *on a dead straight, horizontal course,* and lighting up the whole area around. For a brief moment you could have read a newspaper as well as in broad daylight. No sound whatever accompanied the sight. For a few moments we stood there without moving, without saying a word, and quite scared.

Over the years my mother and I had often spoken of the experience and speculated as to what it might have been. Lately, we had even discussed the possibility that it might have been a flying saucer. But of course in those days, in 1947, who had even heard of jet or supersonic planes, not to mention saucers!

Is it possible that what we saw has any connection with Professor Johannis' experience, which took place in that same part of Italy on the morning of August 14?

As I am not sure whether the address of the Italian UFO Study Group in Turin (*Centro Studi Clipeological*) is still the same, for *The Humanoids* was published in 1969. I am sending this letter to Mr. Gordon Creighton for onward transmission if possible.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Mirella Emery,
18a Market Square, Waltham Abbey,
Essex, England.

[NOTE by **Gordon Creighton (who made the** foregoing precis translation from the Italian): *As we are not even sure whether Signor Gianni Settimo's* Centro Studi Clipeologici *in Turin still exists, and as it is many years since we last saw an issue of their journal Clypeus, I telephoned Mrs. Emery and suggested that this be treated as a letter to FSR, and she gave her approval. We hope however that, if any of our Italian readers have knowledge of Signor Gianni Settimo's whereabouts, and if he is still interested in UFOs, they will bring Mrs. Emery's report to his attention. (As regards Professor Johannis, I seem to remember having read some years ago that he had died and so was no longer in our world.)*]

"Moon machinery" etc.

Sir,—There are many good reasons for suspecting that there was more than a grain of truth in all the rumours, not merely that many astronauts had seen UFOs in their journeys in Space around the Earth or near the Moon, but that indeed some of them actually saw *machines or devices* of some kind on the Moon's surface. Nevertheless, it is decidedly unfortunate that this subject was aired in such a fashion recently.

All this particular hullabaloo about the Moon seems to be based upon the spectacular revelations allegedly imparted to the world in the book *There is Somebody Else on the Moon,* by George H. Leonard. (Published by David McKay Co. Inc., New York, 1976, and W.H. Allen, London, 1977.)

Mr. Leonard has crammed his book with more than thirty good close-up photos of the Moon's surface, said to have been supplied to him by no less a body than NASA. (Nor can one doubt for one moment that they *are* from NASA.)

The crunch comes, however, when Mr. Leonard assures us that these pictures clearly show all manner of constructions, machines, manufactured objects, and so on. My own eyesight is far from poor, and the photos reveal nothing of the sort to me, not even with the aid of a powerful magnifying lens.

(Who is so foolish as to imagine anyway, for one moment, that, had the photographs shown anything of the sort, NASA would have made them available to Mr. Leonard or to any other member of the public?)

I can quite see that this is a perfectly good way of making a few quick bucks, but it will certainly do nothing to advance *our* cause.

And, incidentally, the visual and aural media in this country are not exactly renowned for their scrupulously fair conduct when it comes to

MAIL BAG *(Concluded)*

the matter of UFOs, and one fully appreciates why this should be the case. The Leonard book and Leonard photos were given a suspiciously "good innings." This fact in itself should surely have been seen as sufficient proof that somebody somewhere in the media had recognized them for what they were — one more excellent opportunity to take the mickey out of serious UFO research!

Gordon Creighton
London, S.W.7

THAXTED ENCOUNTER: VEHICLE EXAMINATION

Barry M. King

This report, which is dated August 10, 1977, is of an investigation conducted on behalf of UFOIN (See page 25).*

THE vehicle involved in the alleged Thaxted vehicle interference incident is a hire car and the examination took place in the yard of the hire company, with permission of the manager, Mr Eric Daultrey. The company, Tricentrol Ltd, of 109 Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, Essex, have 63 hire vehicles, 6 being of the same type as the car hired by Mike Stevens.

Our appointment to examine the vehicle was on Friday morning, August 5th, at 9.30am, and Mr Daultrey kindly kept the car off the road to enable us to check it. This resulted in two lost hire days for the company. Mr Daultrey was very helpful and his assistance is greatly appreciated.

After Mr Stevens returned the car to the company it remained virtually untouched and unchecked prior to our visit, being only driven around the yard once or twice and then being cleaned. The only thing that had been checked was the oil level which, being low, had been topped up to the required level.

The vehicle is a three month old Vauxhall *Chevette* E two-door saloon/hatchback, with a third "door" at the rear. The registration number of the car is TAH 894R. It has a four speed manual gearbox and 1250c.c. engine, front mounted. The steel body is light blue in color with matching blue trim interior. Electrical generation is by an alternator fitted with integral transistorised volgage regulator.

Mileage recorded at time of examination: 07,391.

Ignition type was standard coil and contacts.

Fuel pump is mechanical, carburettor is Zenith CD.

4 star grade petrol used.

Engine is water cooled.

No Tachometer fitted to car.

No radio fitted.

Dashboard instrumentation included Speedometer, Mileometer, Temperature gauge, Fuel gauge, Warning lights for indicators, battery, oil, main beam, choke, ignition.

Dash illumination coupled to side/headlamp switch.

Several position ignition switch/steering lock.

Everything functioned normally during the examination. Vehicle had been fully serviced recently under Manufacturer's Warranty, its standard first 6,000 miles.

The under-dash wiring was undamaged and in perfect condition; the facia mounted fuse box holds 6 fuses and was likewise as new. The overall condition of the engine and under-bonnet components and wiring were very good. The battery was in good order along with most of the electrics. I did find that the distributor points were set at 25 thousanths of an inch, and according to the manual supplied with the vehicle these should have been set to 20 thousanths, a minor point. Also there was slight play in the accelerator cable at the carburettor; this was not too great but could mean a slight decrease in top speed as well as (if it slips) some loss of rapid acceleration. The following were all checked thoroughly prior to the road text:

Carburettor and pump, fuel lines, accelerator and choke linkages.

Battery, leads, coil, distributor, points, condensor, baseplate, LT & HT leads.

Starter solenoid, Alternator, HT leads and caps, sparking plugs.

Under bonnet wiring, cooling system, fanbelt.

All exterior lights, under dash wiring, warning lamps, ignition switch Handbrake, pedal operation, gears, steering, heater and booster Electrical continuity.

Mr Daultrey kindly consented to a test run in the vehicle, and he drove whilst I sat in the back taking notes of performance and readings. The car was driven a distance of not more than 2-3 miles in normal town conditions, that is cruising at 25-30 mph, with some hard acceleration. Now and again we reached 55-60 mph, and it was at these speeds that some holding back was noticed, the engine seemed to hold back power slightly, probably due to the incorrect points gap. Overall the car performed very well as one would expect of such a fairly new vehicle.

The following faults could account for a loss of power in a vehicle but none, I think, really apply as they do not match the symptons related by Mr Stevens. (Bear in mind also that he states that the car ran smoothly at a restricted speed, then surged, and then ran smoothly at a gentle pace once he had braked after the fierce acceleration.)

1 : Ignition timing incorrect.
2 : Distributor auto advance incorrect.
3 : Intake vacuum leaks.
4 : Engine compression low.
5 : Valve clearances incorrect.
6 : Fuel starvation.
7 : Throttle linkage out of adjustment.

This last item seems more possible than any of the others, but even so the witness states that the car did not play up again after the incident, and it certainly did not do so during our test run.

The witness has in fact used that car several times and noted no faults. Mr Stevens regularly drives Tricentrol cars and is well known to them. He covers between 5,000 and 10,000 miles a year.

Conclusions

Having found no real faults with the vehicle, and after visiting the sighting location, it would seem that the details given by Mr Stevens seem consistent with our own findings. Although I cannot rule out 100% a "normal" malfunction of the vehicle I feel it is not impossible that an outside energy or force could have been responsible for temporarily preventing Mr Stevens from leaving the area by way of limiting his car's speed.

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* Photographs by Barry King of DPRG UFO PHOTO ARCHIVES, 554 Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, Essex RM9 4XD. England.

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